Trade and Industry

13 August 1976 25p

British rails in Hong Kong

the most luxurious airliner the world has ever known

VC10 Golden Falcon Service – in light type	Flight No.	LONDON Depart	BAHRAIN Arrive	DOHA Arrive	ABU DHABI Arrive	DUBAI Arrive	MUSCAT Arrive
MON	**GF 002**	**1000**	**1825**		**2135**		
	GF 122	2045		TUES 0515		TUES 0805	TUES 0935
TUES	**GF 004**	**1000**		**1835**			**2210**
	GF 124	2045	WED 0505		WED 0800		WED 0945
WED	**GF 008**	**1000**	**1825**			**2135**	**2320**
THURS	**GF 012**	**1000**		**1835**	**2135**		
	GF 018	**2045**				FRI **0645**	FRI **0830**
FRI	**GF 016**	**1000**	**1825**				**2025**
	GF 126	2045		SAT 0515	SAT 0800		SAT 0935
SAT	**GF 006**	**1000**			**1955**		**2145**
	GF 128	2045	SUN 0505			SUN 0800	SUN 1000
SUN	**GF 014**	**1000**		**1835**		**2140**	**2325**

...leaves London at 10 am **every** day of the week... for the Gulf

With no less than 12 conveniently timed departures from London Heathrow each week, Gulf Air offers the most perfect schedule of non-stop flights yet provided between London and the Gulf. On any day of the week, you can leave London Airport by FiveStar TriStar at the sensible hour of 10 am – and check into your hotel in the Gulf at an equally sensible hour that same evening. There is also a FiveStar TriStar service at 8.45 pm on Thursdays in addition to the four evening services which continue to be flown by Golden Falcon VC10. And on Gulf Air's FiveStar TriStars you enjoy more space, more comfort, more attentive individual service.

GULF AIR FiveStar TriStar

Corner of Piccadilly & Berkeley Street, London W1V 9HF.
Reservations: *Tel:* 01-409 1951 *Telex:* 28591 A/B GFRES G
Birmingham, 021-632 5931 • **Manchester,** 061-832 9677 • **Glasgow,** 041-248 6381 •
and all offices of British Airways, or ask your Travel Agent

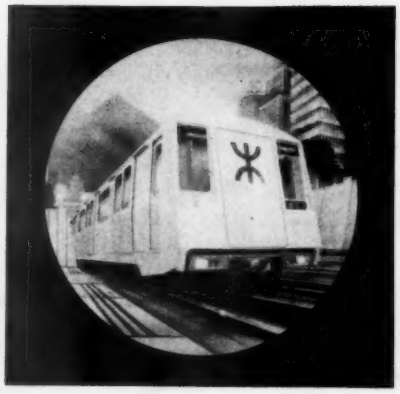
★★★★★

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE ENCIRCLE TI 160 ON READER SERVICE REPLY FORM IN THIS ISSUE

Trade and Industry

13 August 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection



An artist's impression of one of Metro-Cammell's first batch of cars for Hong Kong's first underground railway system which should be in operation by 1980. Almost £100 million worth of contracts for civil engineering, electrical and mechanical work on this project have been awarded to British firms. See also page 464.

Trade and Industry

Incorporating the Board of Trade Journal

Volume 24. No. 7.

Pages 425 to 488. 13 August 1976.

Price 25p. Net subscription post inclusive, £18.72

Editorial
Room 439, 1 Victoria Street,
London SW1H 0ET.

Editorial inquiries: 01-215 5730

Editor: Alan Williams 01-215 5653
Deputy editor: C. R. Kabraji 01-215 5654
Features and Technology: Geoff Sedgwick 01-215 5656, Jennifer Clarke 01-215 5074
Special Features and Promotion: John Bentley 01-215 5655
European Community and Overseas trade: Gillian Samuel 01-215 5620, Alex Mayne-Reid 01-215 3016, Geoff Heaford 01-215 3006
Art and pictures: Bob Priestley 01-215 3118
Circulation control: Christine Swinyard 01-215 5021

Advertisements
T. G. Scott & Son Ltd., 1 Clement's Inn,
London WC2A 2ED

Senior advertisement representative: Colin Beadle 01-242 6264

Subscriptions: HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1. 01-928 6977 ext. 472

© Crown Copyright 1976

Short extracts can be published without specific permission providing that the source is duly acknowledged.

The views expressed in contributions to *Trade and Industry* emanating from other than official sources are not necessarily those of Her Majesty's Government.

The Government will accept no responsibility for any of the statements in the advertisements and the inclusion of any particular advertisement is no guarantee that the goods or the service advertised herein have official approval.

ABC

Home News

Machine tool industry scheme broadened 426
Tea and bread to go metric 427
Concern about imports of consumer electronic products 427
Accelerated investment projects scheme ends 428
Advance factory nursery units for Team Valley 428
Regional Development Grants 428
Four advance factories in north-east 430
Factory expands to cope with export orders 430
£1½m investment in new abrasives plant 430
Use of sperm oil by British leather industry 431
Licensing and supervision of deposit-taking institutions 431
Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958 432
BTA 'Travel Workshops' programme 433
Safer household electrical equipment 434
Consumers assured on metrication 434
Clearance of merger proposals 434
Greater advertising freedom for vets, stockbrokers and accountants? 435
Progress towards unit pricing 436
Three new references for Price Commission 437
Price check achievements 437
New order for milk subsidy 437
New price limits for bread, tea and household flour 438
Tobacco duty 438
New edition of the Seaway Code 438
Revised notice on retail export scheme 438
Undertaking regarding retail petrol suppliers in the UK 439

Technology News

Geothermal energy – the need to know more 444
Temperature sensing units 445
Diamond machining for infra-red telescope 445
Golf clubs by computer-aided design 445
Corrosion problem? 445
Steel living quarters for the crew 445
Oil shales survey 446
Putting beetles off the scent 446
Studying the secrets of the quasars 446
Marine technology 446
Courses on dry bearings and dynamic seals 446

Publications 447

Parliament 448

Government Sales 455

European Community News

New development co-operation proposals to go to council 456
Recovery in EEC industrial production 456
EEC generalised tariff preference scheme 1977 457
EIB lends £26m for Welsh hydro-electric scheme 457
EEC directive on units of measurement 457
New EC legislation 458
Tindemans, direct elections and fisheries on September's agenda 459
Review of CCT suspensions announced 459

BOTB News

Export Year adviser in Wales 460
Dundee and Tayside Chamber to visit Iran 460
Excellent investment opportunity in Philippines 460

Trade Information

ECGD cover improved for contracts expressed in foreign currency 462
Notice to Importers
No. 1500: Cotton from Republic of Korea 462
Patent and trade mark laws in Gilbert Islands and Tuvalu 462
Romanian line of credit increased to £7m 463
New trade mark law for Malaysia 463
Applications for temporary exemption from import duty 463
'Hints to Business Men' booklets – Sweden 463
British firms win major share of Hong Kong's mass transit scheme 464

Tariff and Trade Notices

Austria 468, Brazil 468, Chile 469, China, People's Republic of 469, Colombia 469, Kuwait 469, Egypt 470, France 470, Ghana 470, Greece 470, Japan 470, Liberia 470, Malaysia 470, New Zealand 470, Nigeria 472, Norway 472, Pakistan 472, Panama 472, Papua New Guinea 473, Portugal 473, Singapore 473, South Africa 473, Spain 473, United States 474, Venezuela 474, Yugoslavia 474

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators 475
Manufacturing industry's capital expenditure by regions 476
Business Monitors 476
Regional development grant payments: amendment 477
Index of industrial production for Scotland: amendment 477
The reserves in July 477
Office development permits in second quarter 478
Provisional estimates of vehicle production and new car registrations in July 479
Wholesale price indices in July 479
Retail sales in June 480
Hire purchase and other instalment credit business in June 481
Acquisitions and mergers of industrial and commercial companies 482
New companies registered 484
New companies registered in Northern Ireland 484
Registrations of British, community and foreign films 484
Index to statistics 485

Home news

Machine tool industry scheme broadened

Changes in the Machine Tool Industry Scheme were introduced by the Department of Industry on 10 August. The scope of the scheme is extended to include two sectors of industry closely connected with metal working machine tools – manufacturers of one-off tooling and manufacturers of assembly machines. Changes in the terms of the scheme include 50 per cent grants for consultancy fees for smaller and medium-sized firms.

The scheme, announced by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, in August 1975, is designed to promote the development of new products, improvements in production facilities and machinery, rationalisation of existing product ranges and the adoption of modern management techniques in the metal-working machine tool in-industry. The scheme is provided under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972, and a total of £20 million has been made available for it.

Changes to the scheme are as follows:

Eligibility. Firms eligible to apply for assistance under the scheme, previously limited to those engaged in the manufacture of metal-working machine tools, are extended to include manufacturers of assembly machines and of 'one-off tooling' – such as jigs, fixtures, press tools, dies and moulds and special purpose machines (but not including makers of cutting tools or other engineers' tools produced in large quantities, or engineering companies' 'in-house' toolrooms).

Consultancy. A grant of 50 per cent of approved consultancy fees will be available for small and medium-sized firms which employ consultants to investigate problems and to formulate proposals for improving the firm's productivity and efficiency.

Grants. The form of assistance for projects for the design, development and launching of new machine tools is changed from a concessionary loan of up to 50 per cent of the eligible costs, or the equivalent in interest relief grants (normally up to 19 per cent), to a straightforward grant of 25 per cent of eligible costs.

Minimum. The minimum eligible costs will be halved for projects under the existing parts of the scheme: from £100,000 to £50,000 for product development (Part 1) projects, and from £50,000 to £25,000 (or £100,000 to £50,000 where more than one category of assistance is involved) for projects for modernisation, rationalisation or expansion of capacity (Part 2).

The format of the scheme is now as follows (with the new changes shown by an asterisk):

They want to get the machinery going... From the left: Lord Brown, chairman of the Machine Tool Industry Scheme's Advisory Board; Sir Peter Carey, Permanent Secretary, Department of Industry; Mr. A. F. Frodsham, chairman of the Machine Tools Economic Development Committee.

Part 1 *Product development.* *Grant of 25 per cent eligible costs. Minimum project cost *£50,000.

Part 2 *Modernisation, expansion and rationalisation*

Category A. Installation of plant and machinery – grant of 20 per cent of net eligible costs.

Category B. New buildings, extensions or modifications – grant of 15 per cent of net eligible costs.

Category C. Other appropriate costs not included above – concessionary loan for not more than 50 per cent of eligible costs or equivalent interest relief grant.

Minimum project cost *£25,000, or *£50,000 where more than one category is involved.

*Part 3 *Consultancy.* Grant of 50 per cent of approved consultancy fees, for small and medium-sized firms.

Applications for assistance under the scheme must be submitted by 31 December 1976. Assistance will be given only for expenditure incurred on approved projects before 31 August 1978, or in the case of product development, 31 August 1980.

Inquiries, requests for revised guidance notes and the method of applying for assistance under the scheme should be made in writing to the Department's regional offices or to the Scottish Economic Planning Department, Industrial Development Division; the Welsh Office, Industry Department; or the Department of Commerce, Northern Ireland.

At a press briefing Sir Peter Carey, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Industry, said the machine tool industry had been particularly prone to cyclical fluctuations, which was one of the reasons for the lack of investment.

In the 12 months since the scheme had been introduced, nine applications – from six firms – had been approved, taking up £1.9 million of the £20 million available. Other applications were being processed. The applicants had mainly been large firms. The changes were designed to attract medium and small-size firms. In the past, for example, smaller firms had not made much use of consultancy services.

Sir Peter announced that Lord Brown, chairman of the scheme's advisory board, was to visit the regions in order to talk to firms about the scheme.

Lord Brown said he felt that in the near future there was going to be a rapid rise in orders for machine tools. The scheme encouraged firms to invest now rather than in a few years time, when it might be too late to beat competitors.

Mr. A. F. Frodsham, chairman of the Machine Tools Economic Development Committee, said the scheme accorded with the Government's industrial strategy. The £20 million could stimulate a total investment of between £80 million and £100 million – a high proportion in an industry with a turnover of £300 million. The British machine tool industry tended to produce conventional products – many of them very good, but not the products of the future. Existing products were mainly for a declining market rather than the expected expanding one. The scheme would help to finance product development. Application of advance technology was needed if British industry was to compete in growth markets with growth products.

The industry exports about 50 per cent of its output. Last year was a record, with exports exceeding imports by about £50 million.

The Thistle A production platform jacket begins its journey from the Graythorp, Hartlepool, yard of Laing Offshore to Burmah Oil's Thistle field, the most northerly of the British North Sea oilfields. The 606 ft. jacket is the largest of its kind in the world and will be located in 530 ft. of water. The jacket, which cost more than £100 million to develop, should be producing 10 million tons of oil a year by 1979, nearly 10 per cent of Britain's current consumption. The mammoth jacket was completed within days of a target set three years ago.

Tea and bread to go metric

Tea and bread are to go metric. Flour, oats and potatoes may be sold in large metric bags. This will be the effect of orders* made on 9 August by Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Tea will start to go metric on 1 April 1978 when a range of metric values, including 50g, 125g, 250g and 500g, will replace the present imperial range of packs.

Bakers plan to change to baking metric size loaves during one weekend at the beginning of 1978. The 'large', 28 oz (792g) loaf will be replaced by one weighing 800g and the 'small' 14 oz (396g) loaf will change to 400g.

The orders on flour, oats and potatoes will permit the sale of large metric packs from 10 August. Farmers plan to convert the 56 lb bag of potatoes to 25kg starting with this year's main crop.

The orders follow consultation with the industries concerned and with consumer organisations, enforcement authorities and the distributive trades, all of whom supported the proposals.

The tea order will permit the following prepacked quantities to be sold by retail:

Imperial: 2 oz, 4 oz, 8 oz, 12 oz, 1 lb, 1½ lb or multiples of 1 lb.

Metric: 50g, 125g, 250g, 500g, 750g, 1kg, 1.5kg, 2kg, 2.5kg, 3kg, 4kg or 5kg.

Tea may be sold in any quantity when not exceeding 25g (just under 1 oz) or when exceeding 5kg (10.1 lb).

The bread order will permit whole loaves to be made for sale in weights of 14 oz and multiples of 14 oz or 400g and multiples of 400g. The present limit of 10 oz below which bread may be made in any weight is to become 300g (about 10½ oz).

The order on flour and oat products and the order on potatoes exempt prepacks of more than 10kg and 20kg respectively from the prescribed quantity provisions of Schedule 4 to the Weights and Measures Act 1963. This is to enable large metric packs to be sold from now onwards in advance of entry into force of comprehensive legislation metricating these products. In the case of flour and oat products metrication orders have already been made which come into effect on 1 July 1977 (SI 1975 No. 1178) and 1 August 1977 (SI 1975 No. 1177) respectively. A comprehensive order on potatoes is in course of preparation.

The orders, which were subject to affirmative resolution of both Houses of Parliament, were laid on 19 July.

Trade inquiries about the orders may be addressed to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN (01-211 4648).

* The Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Tea) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 1294; the Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Bread) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 1297; the Weights and Measures (Flour and Oat Products) (Exemption) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 1295; and the Weights and Measures (Potatoes) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 1296.

Concern about imports of consumer electronic products

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, met a deputation on 10 August from both sides of the television industry to hear their concern about imports of consumer electronic products from the Far East.

The deputation included representatives of seven unions as well as representatives of Phillips Industries Ltd., Thorn Electrical Industries Ltd. and GEC.

Members of the deputation said the purpose of the meeting was to apprise the minister of the serious position facing the companies due to unfair competition from Far Eastern countries in the field of audio, monochrome and colour television and component manufacture.

The companies and the union were united in the view that action must be taken by the Government to curb the flow of imports.

The companies sought assurances from the Government that the consumer electronics industry, including components, formed a vital part of the UK industrial strategy.

Mr. Dell said that both the Departments of Trade and Industry had been in very close touch with the UK industry and our concern about import levels had been explained to the Japanese. We had been assured by the Japanese that exports of colour sets to the UK would not show any sudden increase in the second half of 1976. The department was awaiting an early reply from the Japanese on the position relating to portable monochrome sets and contact had already been made with other Far Eastern suppliers. The department was considering the industry's case in the field of audio equipment which was an area of acute concern. Mr. Dell assured the deputation that he certainly wanted the UK to have a consumer electronics industry.

In view of ongoing discussions taking place between the department and Far Eastern countries the deputation asked for a further meeting in September.

Accelerated investment projects scheme ends

No further applications can be accepted under the accelerated investment projects scheme, but applications already received will be considered.

Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, told the House of Commons in answer to a parliamentary question on 6 August that the scheme was introduced to promote significant investment by manufacturing industry otherwise deferred through the adverse economic circumstances of the past two years. It was therefore short-term in nature, and in view of the improving outlook for investment in 1977 and 1978 no further applications would be accepted. All those in hand would, however, be processed and it was expected that further considerable benefits would be derived.

'So far,' Mr. Williams said, '80 projects have been approved, involving £74 million of selective financial assistance. The total project costs will be some £550 million, with a forecast benefit to the balance of payments of more than £200 million in 1978 and exceeding £350 million per annum in 1980. Even though the creation of new employment was not a prime objective of the scheme, some 8,000 new jobs will result, with many more sustained while new plant and buildings generated by the scheme are undertaken. Accordingly, the impact of the scheme will be felt over a wide range of industries and geographical locations.'

Advance factory nursery units for Team Valley

Work will start soon on four advance factories for the Department of Industry on the Team Valley Estate, Gateshead. These are all of 540m² (about 6,000 sq. ft) and each factory is capable of being divided into four smaller units.

A contract worth over £290,000 has been awarded to John Laing Construction Ltd. of Newcastle upon Tyne. Architects are Mathews Ryan and Partners of Gateshead and quantity surveyors are John G. Hellawell and Partner of Newcastle.

Work is expected to start at the beginning of August and the premises should be ready for occupation by March 1977.

Inquiries regarding purchase or lease to: Regional Director, Department of Industry, Northern Region, Wellbar House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4TR (tel. 0632 27575).

Regional Development Grants

The operative date for deferred payments of Regional Development Grants – part of the cuts in public expenditure announced in July – will be 1 April 1977. Details of this and the exclusion of the mining and construction industries were included in a memorandum (printed below) issued by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, on 5 August in answer to a parliamentary question from Max Madden (Sowerby). Mr. Madden asked what measures the minister proposed to give effect to the decision announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 22 July concerning regional development grant. Mr. Varley said:

'I am advised that all the decisions announced by my Rt. Hon. Friend are within the discretion which I have in relation to regional development grants under Section 1 of the Industry Act 1972. However, it would in my view be desirable to make an Order in exercise of my powers under Sections 3(2) and 5(4) of the Act, excluding Orders II and XX (which cover mining, quarrying and construction) from the list of activities which qualify premises for grant. The Order will be laid as soon as possible. A more detailed description of the implementation of the measures is contained in an explanatory memorandum, which I have placed in the Library.'

The text of the memorandum mentioned in the answer is as follows.

The cuts

Among the cuts in public expenditure announced on 22 July 1976 in the House of Commons are two affecting regional development grants:

the deferment of the payment of approved claims for three months; and

the exclusion of the mining and construction industries from eligibility for grants.

Deferred payments

Valid applications received in the Regional Development Grant Offices before midnight on 31 March 1977 will not be subject to the three months' deferment of payment. 'Valid' means made on appropriate forms of application completed in sufficient detail, signed and supported by any necessary supplementary material. The applications will be examined in the ordinary way in the offices; and in each case payments will be made as soon as possible after the office is satisfied that a grant is payable and what the amount is. Applications which are in effect 'dummies' (ie intended to establish as made in time prospective but not sufficiently formulated applications) will not be accepted.

Applications received in the Offices after midnight on 31 March 1977 will also be examined in the ordinary way. In each case, when the office is satisfied that grant is payable and what the amount is, it will write to the applicant to notify him of the amount and to undertake to pay it three months after the date of the notification. It will be a condition of the undertaking that no material changes will have occurred in the circumstances by reference to which eligibility for grant and the amount payable was determined.

In their own interest, applicants are asked to realise that the Offices will not use the three months' deferment to resolve questions arising on the applications. Any questions will have to be resolved first and by the usual means – discussion, correspondence or visits. It is only when they have been resolved that the Offices can satisfy themselves that grants are payable and the amount due, and so establish the date from which the three months' deferment will run. Obviously, where applications are informative enough to obviate the need for further inquiry by the Office, the date will be established more quickly. But this will not be so where protracted inquiry is needed. Because it would operate unfairly against other applicants to do so, no requests to select cases for specially quick examination will be entertained.

Construction

Assets provided for use otherwise than on qualifying premises

1 No grant will be paid on expenditure incurred on the provision after 31 March 1977 of machinery or plant for use in construction activities as defined in Order XX of the Standard Industrial Classification.

2 Expenditure incurred on the provision before midnight 31 March 1977 of plant or machinery for use in construction industries as defined in Order XX will remain eligible for grant. 'Provided' means delivered ready for use to the construction site; or, where the plant or machinery is to be constructed on the site, the completion of the construction. A contract to provide plant or machinery will not be regarded as provision.

Assets provided for use on qualifying premises

3 After 31 March 1977 the activities described within Order XX of the Standard Industrial Classification will cease to be 'qualifying activities' for the purpose of determining whether premises are used wholly or mainly for qualifying activities under Section 2 of the Industry Act 1972. The repair and maintenance of machinery or plant designed for use in these activities, repairs of the kind described in MLH 500 and the training of staff for and scientific research relating to activities described in the Order will also cease to be qualifying activities.

4 Assets provided after 31 March 1977 for use in premises which were previously qualifying premises by virtue of Order XX activities will cease to be eligible for grant. But up to that date, such premises may remain eligible; and where before 6 August 1976 expenditure has been defrayed on the prospective provision of an asset in such premises, grant reckoned by

reference to the amount defrayed may be paid even though the asset is not provided before the premises have ceased at midnight 31 March 1977 to be qualifying premises. Where expenditure is defrayed on or after 6 August 1976, grant will not be paid unless the asset is provided before midnight 31 March 1977 and until it has been provided.

Mining works

1 No grant will be paid on expenditure incurred in providing mining works after 31 March 1977.

2 Expenditure incurred on the provision before midnight 31 March 1977 of mining works will remain eligible for grant. 'Provided' means completed ready for use. Where works comprise a number of parts capable of being used separately for mining, any part completed before midnight 31 March 1977 will remain eligible for grant. A contract to provide works will not be regarded as provision. However, where before 6 August 1976 expenditure has been defrayed on an asset to be provided grant reckoned by reference to the amount so defrayed may be paid even if the asset is not provided before midnight 31 March 1977. Where expenditure is defrayed on or after 6 August 1976 grant will not be paid unless the asset is provided before midnight 31 March 1977 and until it has been provided.

Mining and quarrying

1 After 31 March 1977 the activities described within Order II of the Standard Industrial Classification will cease to be qualifying activities for the purposes of determining whether premises are used wholly or mainly for qualifying activities under Section 2 of the Industry Act 1972. Scientific research and the training of staff relating to mining, quarrying and the other activities described in Order II, and the repair or maintenance of any machinery or plant designed for use in any mining process will also cease to be qualifying activities.

2 Assets provided after 31 March 1977 for use in premises which previously were qualifying premises by virtue of Order II activities will cease to be eligible for grant under Heads 1 and 2(1) of the Table in Section 1(3) of the Industry Act 1972. But up to that date, such premises will remain eligible; and where before 6 August 1976 expenditure has been defrayed on the prospective provision of an asset in such premises grant reckoned by reference to the amount defrayed may be paid even though the asset is not provided before the premises have ceased at midnight 31 March 1977 to be qualifying premises.

Where expenditure is defrayed on or after 6 August 1976 grant will not be paid unless the asset is provided before midnight 31 March 1977 and until it has been provided.

General

1 Any grant paid under the arrangements described above will be subject to the usual conditions attached to the payment of grants, except that no repayment of grant will be required solely on the grounds that construction, mining and quarrying will after 31 March 1977 have ceased to be eligible for grant or to count as qualifying activities.

2 Separate application forms should be used for expenditure defrayed before 6 August 1976.

E. G. VARLEY
Secretary of State for Industry
5 August

Any inquiries about this memorandum and requests for regional development grant application forms should be addressed to the appropriate Regional Development Grants Office. The addresses and telephone numbers of these offices and the areas which they cover are as follows:

Regional Development Grants Offices

Department of Industry,
Regional Development Grants Office,
Queensway House, West Precinct,
Town Centre, Billingham,
Cleveland TS23 2NF
(tel: 0642 553671; telex 58608 INGRA BILLHAM).

Areas for which responsible: Cleveland, Cumbria (excluding Barrow-in-Furness, Dalton-in-Furness, Grange-over-Sands and Ulverston), Durham, Humberside, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Yorkshire and the intermediate areas of Lincolnshire (Gainsborough, Horncastle, Louth, Mablethorpe and Skegness).

Department of Industry,
Regional Development Grants Office,
St. Peter's House,
Stanley Precinct,
Bootle, Merseyside L20 3LZ
(tel: 051-922 4030; telex 627162 INGRA BOOTLE).

Areas for which responsible: Cheshire, part of Cumbria (Barrow-in-Furness, Dalton-in-Furness, Grange-over-Sands and Ulverston), Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside; also the intermediate areas of Alfreton, Chesterfield, Clay Cross, Eckington, Heanor, the High Peak District and Stavely in Derbyshire, Sutton-in-Ashfield and Worksop in Nottinghamshire and Oswestry in Salop.

Department of Industry,
Regional Development Grants Office,
24-26 Newport Road,
Cardiff CF2 1SY
(tel: 022 42611; telex 49538 INGRA CARDIFF).

Areas for which responsible: Wales, Cornwall (including the Isles of Scilly), and the assisted areas in Devonshire. This Office also deals with residual questions on the Derelict Land Clearance areas of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire.

Department of Industry,
Regional Development Grants Office,
Magnet House,
59 Waterloo Street,
Glasgow G2 7BT
(tel: 041-221 9833; telex 77611 INGRA GLASGOW).

Area for which responsible: Scotland.

East Midlands regional office moves

The East Midlands regional office of the Department of Industry has moved to Severns House, 20 Middle Pavement, Nottingham NG1 7DW, tel. Nottingham (0602) 56181. The telex number remains the same (37143) but the answer back code is now DTI Not G.

King & Co
Chartered Surveyors
1 Snow Hill,
London, EC1A 2DL
Telephone 01-236 3000
Telex 885485
Also in Manchester,
Leeds & Brussels.

INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

ENCIRCLE TI 161 ON PAGE 488 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Four advance factories in the north-east

Four advance factories are being built for the Department of Industry in north east England.

On the Cowpen Industrial Estate, Blyth, two factories, one of 900m² (10,000 sq. ft) and the other 2,250m² (25,000 sq. ft) are being built by J. Jarvis and Sons Ltd. of Newcastle under a contract worth about £307,000. Architects are Richard Turley and Associates and quantity surveyors are John G. Hellawell and Partner both of Newcastle upon Tyne. Work has just started and the premises should be ready for occupation by February next year.

A contract worth over £113,000 has been awarded to Brims and Co. Ltd. of Newcastle upon Tyne for the construction of a 1,350m² (15,000 sq. ft) factory on the Nelson Industrial Estate, Cramlington, Northumberland. Architects are Napper, Errington, Collerton, Barnett of Newcastle upon Tyne and quantity surveyors are J. W. Summers and Partners also of Newcastle. Work is to start immediately and the premises should be ready for occupation by the end of the year.

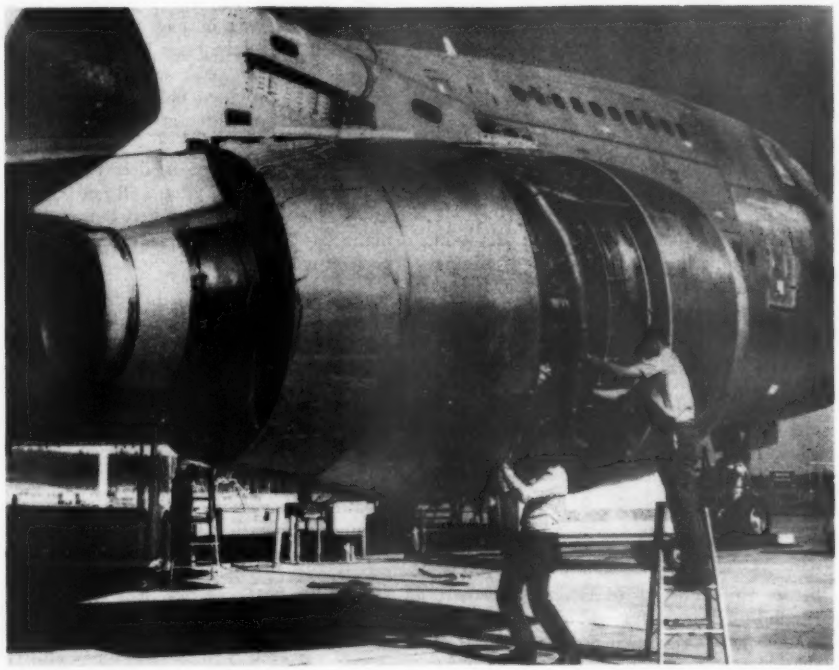
On the North Seaton Industrial Estate, Ashington, Northumberland, Task Construction Ltd of Newcastle upon Tyne are to build a 900m² (10,000 sq. ft) unit under a contract worth about £98,000. Architects are Richard Turley and Associates and quantity surveyors are John G. Hellawell and Partner, both of Newcastle. Work will start during August and the premises should be ready for occupation by the end of the year.

Inquiries regarding purchase or lease to: Regional Director, Department of Industry, Northern Region, Wellbar House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4TR (tel. 0632 27575).

Tell the world about your exports – through the BBC

Every day the BBC tells the world about British business, industry, finance, technology, agriculture and science.
If you have an interesting story about British inventions and successes or outstanding export orders, why not tell the BBC about it?
Firms are often named and many thousands of inquiries are fed back each year.
A leaflet headed 'Tell the world' is available.
Write to Export Liaison Unit, BBC External Services, Bush House, London WC2B 4PH or phone 01-240 3456, ext. 2039 (telex 265781, cables Broadcasts London W1).

Roll-out of Rolls-Royce-powered Boeing 747



The first RB.211-powered Boeing 747 jumbo jet – for British Airways – following its roll-out at Boeing's Everett airfield. The pylon, which attaches RB.211-524 engines to the wing, was built to Boeing's design by the British Airways Corporation. British Airways has ordered six long-range Boeing 747s powered by 50,000 lb thrust RB.211-524 engines. With these aircraft British Airways will be able to fly services non-stop from London to Johannesburg and between London and Sydney with only one stop en route. RB.211-524 engines also power Lockheed TriStar airliners ordered by Saudi Arabian Airlines. TriStars powered by 42,000 lb thrust RB.211 engines are in service with 10 airlines. RB.211 engine and spares deliveries and overhaul business to date have earned Rolls-Royce over £420 million, mainly from export customers.

Factory expands to cope with export orders

The Secretary of State for Wales, has agreed to a 4,645m² extension to be built on a government factory at North Dock, Llanelli, occupied by Avon Inflatables Ltd.

The company expects to provide 174 more jobs at the factory over a three year period. The extension is designed to increase production to cope with the growing worldwide demand for the company's products, which include inflatable rubber boats, liferafts, lifejackets and other military products. Exports this year will account for some 60 per cent of the total business of which a high proportion is to North America.

Avon Inflatables Ltd. at present employs nearly 400 people at its Dafen and North Dock factories. The company has been making inflatable equipment at the Dafen factory since 1964. The extension will be built by the Welsh Development Agency.

£1½m investment in new abrasives plant for exports

A £1½ million investment which will double the production of steel abrasives for overseas has been announced by Barton and Sons, the West Midlands-based engineering group.

The investment is to be made at Barton Abrasives Ltd.'s Tipton Works which specialises in the production of steel abrasives for blast cleaning and surface preparation. The subsidiary has two further factories in Aberdeen and Middlesbrough, producing iron abrasives, which are not affected by this development.

Altogether some 50 extra jobs will be created by this expansion which has been planned to enable the subsidiary to increase its production to meet the steadily growing demand from its European customers. Already foundries in the Netherlands, Scandinavia and West Germany take some 35 per cent of Barton Abrasives' output of metallic abrasives.

The money is to be spent on a new facility covering some 4,000m² of land already owned by the Group and alongside the existing Tipton plant. It will comprise an 'L' shaped building incorporating stockyard, melting, screening, heat treatment and storage facilities.

The engineering and contract management for this project has been entrusted to consulting engineers, Knight Wegenstein Ltd. of Manchester. The new plant is planned to come on stream late in 1978 and be working at full capacity by 1982.

Use of sperm oil by British leather industry

A report on the use of sperm oil by the British leather industry was published on 4 August by the Department of Industry. The report was commissioned from the British Leather Manufacturers' Research Association in December 1975.

The report's findings show that about half of Britain's leather production relies on sperm oil to a greater or lesser degree in order to maintain its quality standards. No single product is available which could simply and exactly replace sperm oil in its applications in the leather industry. New research to find suitable alternatives would be expensive.

The report is in two parts. The first contains information, obtained from the leather and oil manufacturers, on the total usage of sperm oil; the types of leather involved; the technical and economic reasons for using sperm oil; and the international trade position.

Part 2 surveys existing, commercially available sperm oil substitutes and investigates their technical advantages or limitations. Tables of analytical data show the working characteristics and product performance of each substitute, compared with sperm oil itself.

A number of general conclusions are drawn about the probable impact of a ban on sperm oil imports on the leather and speciality oil industries.

Copies of the report entitled, 'Utilisation of Sperm Oil by the Leather Industry', are available from the Central Library of the Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, price £2.75, post free.

UK leather production amounted to over £210 million in 1975. Between 55 and 65 per cent of tanners (110 enterprises in 1975) use sperm oil for some or all of their production. In 1975, UK exports of leather were worth over £53 million.

The licensing and supervision of deposit-taking institutions

The White Paper 'The licensing and supervision of deposit-taking institutions' (Command 6584, HMSO 20p), was published on 3 August. The Government's decision in principle to introduce legislation which would provide for the prior authorisation of deposit-taking institutions was announced last autumn. The Government believes that institutions which take deposits from the general public or from the wholesale money markets should be subject to an adequate system of authorisation and supervision, backed by statute where necessary. The building societies and trustee savings banks are already subject to prudential supervision under statue. The primary banking sector is already subject to supervision by the Bank of England. There are, however, other deposit-taking institutions which are not at present subject to continuing supervision. The proposals in the White Paper are, therefore, directed to the improvement of those arrangements, and in particular to the extension of the system to close this gap. The Government is confident that the changes will both provide greater protection for depositors and strengthen the financial system generally.

The Government believes that the reforms set out in the White Paper will be widely welcomed within the financial community. By better protecting the interests of depositors, the new arrangements will increase confidence in the strength of the financial system and help to ensure that it will be able in the future to make an even greater contribution to the national economy than in the past.

The Government intends that institutions which take deposits from the general public and from the wholesale money markets should be subject to a system of authorisation and supervision backed by statute where necessary.

Although the primary banking sector is already subject to prudential supervision by the Bank of England (and the building societies and trustee savings banks are already subject to other forms of prudential supervision under statute) there are other deposit-taking institutions which are at present not subject to statutory supervision. The events of 1973 and 1974 demonstrated that it is difficult for depositors to distinguish those institutions from organisations which are subject to continuing supervision by the Bank. A number of companies which then found themselves in difficulties described themselves as banks and possessed official recognition under Section 123 of the Companies Act 1967. These deposit-taking institutions were nevertheless not regarded as banks by the Bank of England and were not covered by its informal system of supervision. Nor did the Department of Trade have sufficient powers to supervise them since the Protection of Depositors Act 1963 did not provide for the continuing prudential supervision of institutions falling within its scope.

The Government intends to remedy these deficiencies. The White Paper sets out the new arrangements under the following heads:

Licensing

Under the new system deposit-taking institutions will require a Bank of England licence, unless they are recognised as a bank (see below) or are covered by one of the existing statutory schemes. In order to hold a licence they will need to comply with conditions to be laid down in the legislation and with published prudential criteria (which will be determined by the Bank of England with the agreement of the Treasury).

A minimum level of capital and reserves will be set and institutions will have to satisfy the Bank of England that their management is trustworthy and suitably qualified. Past performance will be taken into account in deciding whether they will be able to meet appropriate standards of liquidity and solvency. Once granted a licence they will have to satisfy the Bank that they continue to conform to the required standards in conducting their business. The Bank will be able to attach further conditions to the granting and renewal of licences covering such matters as the appointment of directors or management and the injection of extra capital. They will be able to revoke a licence if the company is considered no longer able to conform to the required standards.

A right of appeal to the Treasury will exist against the refusal or revocation of a licence.

Recognition as a bank

There will be a new statutory recognition as a bank, which the Bank of England will be able to grant to institutions which meet exacting criteria covering such matters as minimum capital and reserves, the type or range of banking services to be provided and the reputation or status needed. These criteria will be determined by the Bank with the agreement of the Treasury. It is expected that most of the institutions which comprise the primary banking sector at present qualify for this recognition. There will be a right of appeal to the Treasury against the refusal or revocation of this recognition.

Banking names and advertising

Recognised banks will be permitted to describe themselves as banks. Licensed institutions will not be permitted to do so.

The Treasury, in consultation with the Bank of England, will be able to issue regulations governing the content and form of advertising for depositors.

Deposit protection fund

A mandatory deposit protection fund is proposed which will provide the public with an additional safeguard against the loss of deposits. This would relate to sterling deposits up to £10,000, or the first £10,000 of larger deposits, with all licensed deposit-takers and recognised banks. The fund will be administered by the Bank of England.

Exclusions

The arrangement will not cover building societies, the National Giro, the National Savings Bank and friendly societies, which are already satisfactorily regulated under statute. The trustee savings banks will be brought within the arrangements at the

appropriate stage of their development. The arrangements will not apply to stockbrokers.

Transition and special cases

The new system will apply both to institutions wishing to take deposits for the first time and to deposit-taking institutions in existence at the time the Act comes into force. The latter will be given an adequate period, probably 12 months, in which to meet the new requirements.

Legislation

The Government hope to introduce the legislation to give effect to these proposals as soon as the Parliamentary timetable permits.

Parliamentary accountability

There will be full accountability to Parliament through Treasury ministers for the operation of the overall system by the Bank. The licensing and recognition criteria to be used by the Bank will be laid before Parliament when originally prescribed, and as and when they are altered to meet changing circumstances. The framework of the supervision arrangements will be laid down in legislation and the Bank's annual report describing the exercise of its supervisory responsibilities will be laid before Parliament.

Consultations

These are the main points of the Government's proposals. But the authorities intend to hold consultations about the details of the legislation and the way in which it will be operated with interested parties, including representatives of the banks and other financial institutions concerned. They will in particular wish to cover the three areas mentioned in the White Paper as being ones where final decisions have yet to be taken, namely prudential criteria, the deposit protection fund and the difficulties which particular institutions or types of institution may face in complying with the proposed arrangements. Those who wish to make representations on these or other aspects of the legislation or the White Paper should approach the Treasury. The Bank and the Treasury will also be initiating consultations on the details of the prudential criteria to be prescribed once the legislation is enacted and those who wish to be involved in those consultations should approach the Bank in the first instance.

The Bank will also be ready to discuss with individual deposit-taking institutions – other than those in the special categories of the kind mentioned in paragraph 17 of the White Paper* – where they are likely to stand in relation to the proposed arrangements.

* Paragraph 17 refers to 'Certain institutions which carry on the business of taking deposits and which are not supervised under existing legislation, for example credit unions, certain retail co-operatives, municipal or local banks and the Scottish uncertified savings banks . . .'

Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958

The following changes have taken place in Parts 1, 4 and 5 of the 1976 edition of 'Particulars of Dealers in Securities and of Unit Trusts' published in May.

PART 1 HOLDERS OF PRINCIPAL'S LICENCES

Name	Nationality or country of incorporation	Address
Additions		
Sanyo Securities Co. Ltd.	Great Britain	18 Finsbury Circus, London EC2
Emson and Dudley Securities Management Ltd.	Great Britain	20 Arlington Street, London SW1
Deletions		
MEPC Finance Ltd.	Great Britain	113 Park Lane, London W1Y 4AY
Change of Address		
Van Cutsem and Associates Ltd.		9th Floor, 21 Mincing Lane, London EC3R 7HU
York Trust Investments Ltd.		36 Hertford Street, London W1Y 7TG

PART 4 EXEMPTED DEALERS including TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS

Name	Registered office, principal place of business or principal place of business in Great Britain
Deletions	
Dawson and Forbes Ltd.	38 Queen Street, London EC4R 1BY
Gilliat [John K. Gilliat and Co. Ltd.]	37 Queen Street, London EC4

PART 5 AUTHORISED UNIT TRUST SCHEMES

Group and/or name and address of management company	Name of scheme	Name and address of trustee
Additions		
Transatlantic and General Securities Co. Ltd., 91-99 New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0PY	Cumberland Fund	Lloyds Bank Ltd., 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS
Changes		
DELETE M and G (Scotland) Ltd., 169 West George Street, Glasgow G2 2LA	Clyde High Income Fund	Clydesdale Bank Ltd., 30 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2HL
AND REPLACE BY M and G Securities Ltd., Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ	M and G High Income Fund	Clydesdale Bank Ltd., 30 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2HL
DELETE Ebor Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Ebor Select Growth Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
AND REPLACE BY *Save and Prosper Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Save and Prosper Select Growth Fund	The Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd., 42 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE
DELETE Ebor Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Ebor Universal Growth Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
AND REPLACE BY *Save and Prosper Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Save and Prosper Universal Growth Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
DELETE Ebor Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Ebor Capital Accumulator Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
AND REPLACE BY *Save and Prosper Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Save and Prosper Ebor Capital Accumulator Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
DELETE Ebor Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Ebor General Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ

Group and/or name and address of management company	Name of scheme	Name and address of trustee
AND REPLACE BY *Save and Prosper Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Save and Prosper Ebor General Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
DELETE Ebor Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Ebor Commodity Share Unit Trust	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh, EH1 1YZ
AND REPLACE BY *Save and Prosper Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Save and Prosper Commodity Share Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh, EH1 1YZ
DELETE Ebor Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Ebor Select Income Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
AND REPLACE BY *Save and Prosper Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Save and Prosper Select Income Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
DELETE Ebor Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Ebor Commodity Pension and Charities Trust	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
AND REPLACE BY *Save and Prosper Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Save and Prosper Commodity Pension and Charities Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
DELETE Ebor Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Ebor Energy Industries Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
AND REPLACE BY *Save and Prosper Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Save and Prosper Energy Industries Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
DELETE Ebor Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Ebor Financial Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
AND REPLACE BY *Save and Prosper Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Save and Prosper Ebor Financial Fund	The Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd., 42 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE
DELETE Ebor Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Ebor Property Share Building and Allied Trades Unit Trust	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
AND REPLACE BY Save and Prosper Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Save and Prosper Ebor Property, Share Building and Allied Trades Unit Trust	The Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd., 42 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE

* Denotes change of name of managers.

The following changes have taken place in the entry for 'Save and Prosper Securities Ltd.':

DELETE
Save and Prosper General Units.

AND REPLACE BY
Save and Prosper UK Equity Fund.

In the 'Trustee' column, against 'Save and Prosper Financial Securities Fund':

DELETE
Barclays Bank Trust Co. Ltd.,
54 Lombard Street,
London EC3P 3AH

AND REPLACE BY
The Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd.,
42 St. Andrew Square,
Edinburgh EH2 2YE

BTA announces new 'Travel Workshops' programme

A new programme of 'Travel Workshops' has been announced by the British Tourist Authority.

Workshops – which were first held in 1968 – bring together overseas travel agents and tour operators and representatives of British organisations with tourist services to sell.

The programme for 1976-77 includes specialist workshops in Britain and more general promotions in selected overseas markets. The major annual North American Agents Workshop will take place in Los Angeles and New York in November this year, and the largest workshop – in numbers of delegates – the International Youth Travel Workshop, will be held in Edinburgh in September.

Other workshops will be organised in Rome, Amsterdam and Brighton.

Details are as follows:

International Youth Travel Workshop, 6-10 September, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. Youth travel operators, agents and holiday organisers from Europe, North and South America, the Middle East and Far East will be invited to attend this workshop. This workshop is already fully booked.

North American Agents' Workshop, 16-24 November, Los Angeles and New York. The programme will include a two-day workshop in both these American cities. US tour operators and travel agents attending will be particularly interested in information about inclusive tours and package holidays, new tourist 'products' and services and general travel arrangements.

European Coach Operators' Workshop, 6-8 December, Brighton. More than 100 coach and tour operators from France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany will be invited to this workshop. They will meet representatives from British hotel groups, and individual hotels welcoming coach parties, restaurants, evening entertainment facilities, organisers of mediaeval banquets, reception and handling agents, and owners of places of interest – such as historic houses, gardens and museums.

Rome British Travel Workshop, 7-11 February. Travel agents and tour operators will be invited from main business centres throughout Italy. Particular emphasis will be placed on new tourist products and services, inclusive holidays and package tours, hotels in all ranges, including those offering economic terms for group bookings. This is a developing market for activity holidays, such as riding, shooting and fishing.

Amsterdam British Travel Workshop, 1-4 March. Agents will be invited from business centres in the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium. Economy package holidays are of particular interest to this competitive travel market. Emphasis will again be placed on new tourist products and services, hotels catering for group travel and inclusive tour business and activity holidays (including golf, riding and fishing).

Safer household electrical equipment

Safety requirements for domestic electrical equipment will be strengthened as a result of regulations* made by John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, and published on 6 August.

The measures amend the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1975 which already impose comprehensive requirements on safety of electrical equipment for use in and around the home.

Answering a parliamentary question from Mrs. Ann Taylor (Bolton West) Mr. Fraser said in the House of Commons on 6 August that the regulations prescribe some additional safety requirements for certain items of domestic electrical equipment, namely lampholders, lighting fittings and 'pear' switches, and require electrical equipment, where appropriate, to have an effective cord anchorage or other suitable device to prevent tension in the flexible cord being transmitted to the terminals.

They also provide, he said, for exemption from certain of the requirements of the 1975 regulations, either totally or for a limited period, for lamps, lampholders, 15-amp 3-pin plugs, radiant electric fires, surfaces of electric cookers more than 750mm above floor level, and equipment sold or possessed for sale to the Crown and to electricity boards and certain other bodies for use in connection with the supply of electricity to domestic premises.

Certain of the provisions of the principal regulations have been amended in their application to lighting fittings and electricity meters, Mr. Fraser said.

The amending regulations take account inter alia of matters raised in the fourth standing committee on Statutory Instruments on 6 November 1975.

The new regulations will:

require electrical equipment, where appropriate, to have an effective cord anchorage or other suitable device to prevent tension in the flexible cord being transmitted to the terminals;

prescribe safety requirements for lampholders (including those incorporated in lighting fittings) to reduce the risk of live parts being inadvertently exposed when removing or replacing a lamp or shade ring;

require 'pear' switches to be so designed that they do not come apart inadvertently in normal use;

include requirements which ensure that when a lamp is being inserted, no part of the lamp or lampholder can become live while it can be touched. Alternatively in the case of lampholders for double-ended lamps, the lampholder or fitting must bear a warning about disconnection before a new lamp is inserted;

amend the provision in the 1975 regulations concerning surface temperatures of radiant electric fires (parts which get hot enough to cause injury must be enclosed or guarded) by exempting them from this provision if the temperature rise of such surfaces above room temperature does not exceed 85°C;

make it clear that, as from a prescribed date, the provision in the 1975 regulations concerning surface temperatures applies to surfaces of electric cookers more than 750mm above floor level – as well as surfaces below this level for which the operative dates referred to above already apply.

Other amendments of a technical nature to the provisions of the 1975 regulations are also included. The amending regulations will come into operation on 1 September 1976, though many of the provisions will not take effect until 1977-78.

The 1975 regulations and the 1976 amending regulations have been made under the Consumer Protection Act 1961 and are enforced by local trading standards officers. It is an offence under this act for any person to sell or possess for sale in the course of a business any goods (including second-hand goods) which do not comply with prescribed safety requirements. Manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers are all liable to prosecution if they sell non-complying equipment.

The Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1975 were announced on 21 August 1975. They came into effect on 1 April this year for manufacturers and importers, and will come into operation for wholesalers and retailers on 1 October 1976.

The requirements in the 1975 regulations are concerned with insulation and earthing of equipment; accessibility of live parts; the fitting of all-pole switches on appliances with accessible heating elements; the enclosure or guarding of moving parts; the enclosure or guarding of parts which get hot; the generation of excessive heat, the dangerous emission of radiation of any kind and the emission of toxic gases; and the provision of information on safe operation.

The regulations apply to any electrical equipment (including any apparatus or device) designed or suitable for domestic use (whether indoors or out-of-doors) at a voltage of 50 volts or more.

The amendments now made have been the subject of consultations with interested bodies. The advisory committee on the safety of household electrical equipment, set up by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection in April 1975, has also been consulted.

* The Electrical Equipment (Safety) (Amendment) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1208, available from HMSO, price 20p.

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

Kemanord AB/R. and G. Cuthbert Ltd.

National Nederlanden UK Ltd. and the Merchant Investers Assurance Co. Ltd.

Consumers assured on metrication

Assurances on metrication were given to consumer organisations on 4 August by John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Replying to a parliamentary question from Ioan Evans (Aberdare) Mr. Fraser said:

'I am happy to give the assurances sought by the National Consumer Council and other consumer organisations. Firstly, the Government accepts that there is a danger that metrication might be thought to be responsible for higher prices and that it is important that consumer confidence be established in this respect. Wherever necessary therefore the Government will be prepared to use its powers under the Prices Acts to freeze prices during changeover periods. The need to use these powers can be examined during the consultation procedure which is specifically required under the Weights and Measures Etc. (No. 2) Bill before individual orders can be brought forward.

'Secondly, as regards the suggestion for a Metrication Monitoring Unit, the Government accepts that it is important that queries and complaints by consumers are properly dealt with and monitored, and, against the background of the need for restraints on public expenditure and manpower, is examining ways and means of doing this. The possible role of voluntary consumer groups is also being considered.

'Thirdly, whilst metrication in itself cannot solve the problem of increasing the availability of small packs for pensioners, I can give the assurance that all metrication orders have included and will continue to include provisions which make the sale of small packs legal.

'Fourthly, I accept that metrication will provide an ideal opportunity to extend prescribed quantity legislation to goods and products not at present subject to such legislation. The Government sees this as one of the great potential consumer benefits of metrication and will be vigorously pursuing this policy.

'Finally, the Government recognises, as do the trade themselves, that special promotions of goods immediately prior to or during a changeover period can lead to confusion for the consumer. During the consultation procedure leading up to an individual order the Government will be prepared to seek the co-operation of the trade in ensuring that this confusion is avoided.'

Greater advertising freedom for vets, stockbrokers' and accountants?

Greater freedom to advertise should be given to vets, stockbrokers and accountants. This is the view of Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, following publication of three reports by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission*.

John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said in a written reply to a parliamentary question on 6 August, that the Secretary of State took the view that the groups should be given greater freedom to advertise than is at present allowed under their existing codes of conduct.

The Monopolies Commission reached broadly similar conclusions and made broadly similar recommendations in each of the reports but certain special features were noted in each case.

She was therefore asking the Director General of Fair Trading to enter into discussions with the stock exchange and the relevant professional bodies about the proposed new rules and safeguards on advertising and allied matters.

In her discussions on stockbrokers, the Secretary of State asking the Director General of Fair Trading in considering safeguards to have special regard to the interests of the inexperienced investor.

In her discussions about the means by which the commission's recommendations on accountants could best be implemented, Mrs. Williams was asking the Director General to have regard among other things to the possible international implications for accountants and to the responsibilities of auditors under the Companies Acts.

Veterinary services

'The commission found,' Mr. Fraser said, 'that monopoly conditions prevailed in the supply of veterinary services in relation to restrictions on advertising in that the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the statutory registering and regulatory body for the profession in the United Kingdom, promulgated a code of behaviour which severely restricted advertising by practising veterinarians. This was in the form of an advisory Guide to Professional Conduct.

The commission was satisfied that in general all suppliers of veterinary services in the United Kingdom complied with the restrictions as laid down in the guide. The effect of the restrictions was to prohibit an individual veterinary practice from indulging in any form of advertising, promotion or publicity except for a bare minimum of permitted forms of publicity regarded by the profession as being essential for keeping the using public informed of the existence and location of practices or as being desirable in the interests of the profession as a whole.

'The commission accepted that veterinarians had a special responsibility to their clients and a further responsibility to their animal patients. They accepted that certain kinds of advertising could lead to a significant deterioration in confidence within the profession, in the public's confidence in the profession, and therefore in the profession's ability to carry out those special responsibilities which it was in the public interest that it should assume. There was therefore a case for the continuance of a degree of restriction on the advertising of veterinary services. However, they could not support the present system of restrictions as being essential for the proper conduct of the profession.

'The commission concluded that the present restrictions on advertising operated against the public interest in three ways:

They unduly restricted the information given to the public about the kinds of services offered by individual veterinary practices.

They were likely to delay the introduction of innovatory methods and services and the setting up of new practices with probably disadvantageous effects on the competitiveness and efficiency of the profession generally;

They might enhance the influence upon the public of other, less desirable methods of attracting custom and tend to create a false image of the profession harmful to public confidence and to relations between the profession and public.

'The commission suggested that those provisions in the Guide to Professional Conduct which at present restrict advertising should be terminated and that they should be replaced by a rule which would permit any veterinary practice in the United Kingdom to use such methods of publicity as it thought fit provided that:

1 No advertisement, circular or other form of publicity used by a veterinary practice should claim, for that practice, superiority in any respect over any or all other veterinary practices.
2 Such publicity should not contain any inaccuracies.
3 Such publicity should not contain any claims to specialisation in particular areas of veterinary treatment except insofar as these were justified by the veterinarians' particular academic qualifications provided that a veterinarian might state the species of animal he handled and any facilities available to, or provided by, him.
4 While advertisements, circulars and other publicity could make clear the intention of the veterinary practice to seek custom, they should be of a character that could reasonably be regarded as likely to bring the profession into disrepute.

'Provided these basic changes were made in the present code, the commission saw no need for modification of the present disciplinary arrangements within the profession.

'Finally, the commission suggested that before the rule was formulated in precise terms there should be consultation between the Royal College and the appropriate authorities under the Fair Trading Act in the light of the proposals made by the commission. They suggested that this consultation could also cover the question of the revision of other passages in the Guide to Professional Conduct to ensure that they were not in conflict with the intention of the proposed new advertising rule.

Stockbrokers' services

'The commission found that monopoly conditions prevailed in the supply of stockbrokers' services in relation to restrictions on advertising in that members of the stock exchange were required to observe such restrictions under the rules and regulations of the stock exchange. The commission was satisfied that in general all stockbroker members accepted these restrictions on advertising.

'The restrictions prevented stockbrokers from using certain forms of advertising at all (eg on radio or television). They also severely limited the content of any press advertising and the extent to which it might be used to obtain business. And finally they prevented the use of circulars (other than to existing clients) as a means of obtaining business from investors.

'The commission accepted that stockbrokers had a special responsibility to their clients and to the investing public. So far as that responsibility related to avoiding the misleading of investors and avoiding false markets, they did not think that the present restrictions on advertising were necessary to reinforce the separate stock exchange rules, and relevant legislation, on these subjects. They accepted, however, that there were some kinds of advertising which if permitted and indulged in could seriously mislead some investors or could lead to a significant deterioration in confidence as between stockbrokers, in the public's confidence in stockbrokers, and thererefore in their ability to carry out these special responsibilities which it is in the public interest that they should assume. The commission therefore saw a case for the continuance of a degree of restriction on the advertising of stockbrokers' services. However they could not support the present system of restrictions as being essential for the proper conduct of their business.

'The commission concluded that the present restrictions on advertising operated against the public interest in three ways:

They unduly deprived members of the investing public of information which might otherwise be available to them.

They were likely to have disadvantageous effects on the competitiveness and efficiency of stockbrokers generally and on the introduction of innovatory methods and services

*_Veterinary Services:_ A report on the supply of veterinary services in relation to restrictions on advertising. Cmnd. 6572, ISBN 0 10 165720 X, price 95p.
Stockbrokers' Services: A report on the supply of stockbrokers' services in relation to restrictions on advertising. Cmnd. 6571, ISBN 0 10 165710 2, price 85p.
Accountancy Services: A report on the supply of accountancy services in relation to restrictions on advertising. Cmnd. 6573, ISBN 0 10 165730 7, price £1.35.

and, in some circumstances, could act as a deterrent to new entry to practice.

They might enhance the influence upon the public of other, less desirable, methods of attracting custom and tend to create a false image of stockbrokers which was harmful to public confidence and to relations between stockbrokers and public.

'The commission suggested that those provisions in the stock exchange's rules which at present restrict advertising should be terminated. They should be replaced by a rule which, subject always to any material statutory provisions including the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958, would permit any stockbroking firm of the Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom to use such methods of publicity as it thought fit provided that:

1 No advertisement, circular or other form of publicity used by a stockbroking firm should claim for that firm superiority in any respect over any or all other stockbroking firms.
2 Such publicity should not contain any inaccuracies.
3 Recommendations about particular securities should not be made in any advertisement in the press or other news media, but should be confined to circulars to specific addressees in which the reasons for making the recommendations are explained in detail.
4 Whenever a stockbroking firm made recommendations about particular securities in circulars, it should make it clear that individual investors who might contemplate taking action as a result of such recommendations would need to have regard to their own particular circumstances.
5 While advertisements, circulars and other publicity might make clear the intentions of the firm to seek custom, they should not be of a character likely to bring stockbrokers into disrepute.

'Provided these basic changes were made in the present code, the commission saw no need for modification of the present disciplinary arrangements governing stockbrokers' conduct.

'Finally, the commission suggested that before the rule was formulated in precise terms there should be consultation between the Stock Exchange and the appropriate authorities under the Fair Trading Act in the light of the proposals made by the commission. They suggested that this consultation could also cover the question of those other rules of the stock exchange which have a bearing upon advertising, and how far the proposed general rule for stockbrokers should also be applied to those included in the registers of agents.

Accountancy services

'The commission found that monopoly conditions prevailed in the supply of accountancy services in relation to restrictions on advertising in that the four professional bodies of accountants covered by the reference advised their members to observe severe restrictions on advertising. The commission was satisfied that in general all suppliers of accountancy services as defined in the reference accepted the restrictions on advertising as laid down in the advice given by the bodies to which they belonged. The restrictions prevented every such supplier of accountancy services from using advertising as a form of competition to obtain business.

'The commission accepted that accountants owed a special responsibility to their clients and a further and deeper responsibility to the public generally. It accepted also that there are some kinds of advertising which if permitted and indulged in could lead to a significant deterioration in confidence within the profession, in the public's confidence in the profession, and therefore in the profession's ability to carry out these special responsibilities which it is in the public interest that it should assume. There was therefore a case for the continuance of a degree of restriction in the advertising of accountancy services. However, they could not support the present system of restrictions as being essential for the proper conduct of the profession.

'The commission concluded that the present restrictions on advertising operated against the public interest in three ways:

They unduly restricted the information given to the public about the services offered by individual accountancy practices.

They were likely to have disadvantageous effects on the competitiveness and efficiency of the profession generally, on the introduction of innovatory methods and services, and on the setting up of new practices.

They might enhance the influence upon the public of other, less desirable, methods of attracting custom and tend to create a false image of the profession which was harmful to public confidence and to relations between the profession and the public.

'The commission suggested that those provisions in the rules of the accountancy bodies covered by the reference, which placed a general prohibition on advertising and soliciting business, should be terminated and replaced by a rule which would permit any accountancy practice in Great Britain to use such methods of publicity as it thought fit provided that:

1 No advertisment, circular or other form of publicity used by an accountancy practice should claim for that practice superiority in any respect over any or all other accountancy practices.
2 Such publicity should not contain any inaccuracies.
3 While advertisments, circulars and other publicity might make clear the intention of the accountancy practice to seek custom, they should not be of a character that could reasonably be regarded as likely to bring the profession into disrepute.

'Provided these basic changes were made in the present code, the commission saw no need for modification of the present disciplinary arrangements within the profession.

'Finally, the commission suggested that before the rule was formulated in precise terms there should be consultation between the Institutes, the Association and the appropriate authorities under the Fair Trading Act in the light of the proposals made by the commission. They suggested that this consultation could also cover (a) the question of such other rules of the accountancy bodies as might have a bearing upon advertising and (b) the advertising of ancillary services where these are provided by firms covered by the reference.'

Progress towards unit pricing

Consultations are continuing with appropriate trade interests for unit pricing to be introduced on a further range of foods.

Answering a parliamentary question from Mrs. Ann Taylor (Bolton West) on 4 August, Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection said:

'Following recent meetings with all the organisations that took part in the meat unit pricing pilot scheme formal proposals have now been circulated to trade and enforcement interests for comment. We expect shortly to circulate the terms of draft orders to cover all the popular hard cheeses and to finalise plans for extending unit pricing for fish. In the autumn we shall also be resuming our discussions with a view to including poultry in our programme of orders.'

Notes

The Government has powers under Section 4 of the Prices Act 1974 to make orders requiring the price, including the unit price, of goods offered or exposed for retail sale, to be indicated. Priority has been given to using these powers to cover unit pricing for important food items.

Orders made so far are:

	Marking obligation
The Price Marking (Meat and Fish) Order, 1974 (SI 1974 No. 1368)	
Meat	
non-prepacked mince and offal	Unit price
prepacked fresh, chilled or frozen	Unit price and selling price
Fish	
non-prepacked fresh, chilled, frozen herring, mackerel and sprat, and fillets of cod, codling, haddock, plaice and saithe (including salted or smoked fillets)	Unit price
The Price Marking (Fruits and Vegetables) Order, 1975 (SI 1975 No. 1317)	
Fresh fruit and vegetables	
non-prepacked	Unit price or selling price (price per item)
prepacked	Selling price
The Price Marking (Drinks on Premises) Order, 1975 (SI 1975 No. 1737)	
Drinks sold for consumption on licensed premises	Selling price
The Price Marking (Pre-packed Milk in Vending Machines) Order, 1976 (SI 1976 No. 796)	
Pre-packed milk sold from vending machines in quantities of less than ½ pint	Unit price

Copies of the Orders are available from HMSO and leading booksellers.

Three new references for Price Commission

Call-out charges, costs of soft drinks and privately prescribed hearing aids are the latest subjects to be referred to the Price Commission for investigation.

Answering a question from John Garrett (Norwich South), Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, told the House of Commons on 5 August:

'I have asked the Price Commission to examine and report on three further topics:

Fixed minimum charges for visits to the home in connection with the repair of domestic appliances and installations, and the relationship between such charges and the prices charged for repairs.

Prices and margins in the distribution of soft drinks and mixers sold for consumption on licensed premises.

Prices of privately prescribed hearing aids.

'These are all matters on which I have received letters or requests for an investigation and I should like the Price Commission to report to me on the facts. The decision to make these references does not imply that prices are unjustified or that there is evidence of profiteering.

'Following receipt of the Price Commission's report on the prices of small electrical household appliances, with particular reference to the practice of recommending retail prices, I shall also be asking the Commission to undertake a wider factual analysis of the practice of recommending retail prices and its effect on actual retail prices.'

Notes

The programme of special references to the Price Commission was announced by Mrs. Williams on 17 April 1975, pursuant to paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 1 to the Counter-Inflation Act 1973. The aim is to establish and explain the facts about individual pricing problems of interest or concern and to seek remedies for any abuses that might be revealed.

Within this programme, the Price Commission has made reports on:

Motor fuel retailers' margins
Sanitary protection
Diabetic foods
Food prices in outlying areas
Margins on coal distribution
Bread prices in Northern Ireland
Alcohol distributors' margins
Tobacco distributors' margins
Raw material price movements and effect on prices in the shops

Further studies in hand cover:

Television hire charges
Small electrical household appliances
Differential pricing of goods sold in small packs compared with large
Spectacle frames and lenses
Charges for funerals
Burglar alarms

In addition, the Commission has made a number of reports (eg on meat and fish) under a standing reference on fresh food, and have been asked to review continuously the effect of metrication on retail prices.

Price check achievements: June figures show increases well below maximum

The Price Check Scheme substantially succeeded in its aims, Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said on 4 August in the House of Commons.

In reply to a question from R. C. Mitchell (Southampton Itchen) Mrs. Williams said:

'The Price Commission's latest report covering the retail prices of items in the Scheme in June shows that of 47 groups of products in the Scheme the prices of 15 had remained static within half of 1 per cent, 16 had increased by less than 2 per cent, and six had gone up by more than 2 per cent but less than 5 per cent allowing for rounding. The prices of 10 groups of products had fallen.

'The scheme has substantially succeeded in its aims and I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have taken part in it: the trade associations who recommended the scheme to their members or constituents, the manufacturers and providers of services who agreed to hold their prices, and the wholesalers and many thousands of retailers, both large and small, who have ensured that price restraint by manufacturers is passed on to the shopping public.'

The Price Check Scheme, which began in the shops on 16 February, comes to an end on 15 August. The basis of the scheme was the voluntary undertaking given by manufacturers, providers of services, wholesalers and retailers that for a wide range of goods and services, amounting to some 15-20 per cent of consumers' expenditure, price increases in the shops would be held, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, to a maximum of 5 per cent during this six months. (To allow for the delivery pipeline manufacturers' undertakings began and ended two weeks earlier than retailers' undertakings.) The Scheme also provided for retailers to add items of their own choosing provided they were satisfied that they could keep prices within the 5 per cent limit. Car batteries were withdrawn from the scheme in May because of substantial and unforeseen increases in the price of imported lead.

The Secretary of State announced in March that she had asked the Price Commission to '... keep under continuous review until 16 August 1976 the prices of goods and services affected by the Price Check Scheme and to report to her from time to time as they think fit.' This is the third report on the prices of Price Check goods and services submitted by the Price Commission.

New Order for administering milk subsidy

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, laid before Parliament on 6 August an Order to reinforce the present arrangements to ensure that liquid milk consumers benefit in full from the Government subsidy.

The Order is the Food Subsidies (Conditions) (Milk) Order 1976 (SI 1976/1205). It requires milk processors and distributors to issue to their non-retail buyers a notice of conditions governing the supply and use of subsidised milk.

These conditions are that subsidised milk should not be used for manufacture (eg of butter, cheese, ice cream, bakery products) or exported and that supporting resords should be kept for a period of two years.

The Order has been prepared after detailed discussions with representatives of the dairy industry. It comes into operation on 3 October 1976.

The new Order will give legislative backing to the existing arrangements between Milk Marketing Boards and milk distributors which serve to ensure that subsidised milk intended for liquid consumption is not diverted into manufacture or exported. Other than requiring the issue of a conditions notice to all trade buyers of subsidised milk and ensuring the retention of records it does not impose new conditions.

The Order does not affect private consumers of milk and for the purpose of the Order schools, hospitals, Government institutions, hotels and catering establishments (who use subsidised milk for food which is made and consumed on the same permises) will be regarded as falling within this category. Subsidised milk may also be supplied as ships and aircraft stores.

The milk subsidy is at present equivalent to about 2p per pint and will cost in the current financial year over £200 million.

New price limits for bread, tea and household flour

The statutory maximum retail prices of bread, listed brands of subsidised tea in packets and in tea bags and of certain self-raising, plain and chupatty flours are being increased. The new limits, contained in orders laid before Parliament on 6 August by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, are necessary because of increased costs and, in the case of bread, the cut in the bread subsidy announced on 29 July. The new price limits came into force on 9 August for bread, on 10 August for household flour and will come into force on 16 August for tea.

Maximum prices rise in general on large and small loaves by 1p or 1½p according to variety in Great Britain and by ½p in Northern Ireland; on tea by about 2p to 2½p per 4 oz; and on flour by 2p on 1 lb and 3 lb bags of plain and self-raising flour and by 20p on 70 lb and 32kg packs of chupatty flour. Prices in the shops will generally remain below the new limits for tea and flour. The extent to which they may rise continues to be governed by the requirement that distributors' profits – the percentage difference between their buying and selling prices – should not be increased.

The orders are:

The Bread Prices (Amendment) Order 1976 – SI 1976/1250
The Tea Prices Order 1976 – SI 1976/1269
The Household Flour Prices Order 1976 – SI 1976/1268

The permitted price increases for bread are:

	Great Britain			Northern Ireland
	Pence per loaf			Pence per loaf
	Increased costs	Subsidy reduction	Total	Subsidy reduction
28 oz and 14 oz standard, cholla and ritual loaves	½	½	1	½
28 oz and 14 oz non-standard loaves	1	½	1½	½
8-10 oz loaves	½	½	1	½
14 oz bread sticks	½	½	1	½
42 oz loaves	1	1	2	1
56 oz (or more) loaves	1	1	2	1

The new maximum prices for tea are:

i Tea not in tea bags	Price in pence per 4 oz weight
Brooke Bond Dividend	12
Co-op 99	13½
Lyons Quick Brew	14
Nambarrie	14
PG Tips	14
Typhoo	14

	Price in pence		
ii Tea in tea bags	Per 4 oz weight	Per 8 oz weight	Per 1 lb weight
Brooke Bond Dividend	19	36½	72
Co-op 99	19½	37½	74
Lyons Quick Brew	20	39	77
Nambarrie	19	37	—
PG Tips	20	39	77
Tetley	20	39	77
Typhoo	20	39	77

The new maximum prices for household flour are:

	1 lb bag	3 lb bag
Plain (other than strong, wheatmeal and wholemeal)	11½p	26½p
Self-raising (other than strong, wheatmeal and wholemeal)	11½p	26½p
Chupatty (other than batch, brown and wholemeal)	70 lb or 32kg pack £4.20	

In accordance with the Prices Acts the provisions have been the subject of consultations with interested organisations.

Standard bread (Great Britain only) and packet tea are included in the Price Check Scheme. The baking companies and tea importers have carried out the manufacturers undertaking to keep price increases within 5 per cent overall for the six months to 31 July. Because of the nature of the product it is recognised that bread price increases will be reflected at the retail level a few days before the scheme ends in shops on 15 August; the increases on tea will not be effective until after that date.

Enforcement is carried out by local weights and measures authorities in Great Britain and by the Department of Commerce in Northern Ireland. Price Regulation Orders are also in force for butter and cheese.

Revised notice on retail export scheme

A revised version of Notice No. 704 (Retail export scheme) is being issued by Customs and Excise. It describes the Personal Export and Over-the-Counter schemes which allow goods to be relieved of VAT when sold by a registered trader to an overseas visitor or other entitled person for export.

There is no radical change in the content of the notice but the material is presented in a more helpful sequence.

The revised notice will go to all VAT registered traders known to hold copies of the previous notice which was issued November 1973. Additional copies can be obtained from any Customs and Excise VAT office.

Tobacco duty

HM Customs and Excise announce that the reduced rates of customs duty on tobacco and the new tobacco products excise duties published in Amendment No 28 to the Customs and Excise Tariff are now payable.

Traders who have been giving security for the accumulated net liability arising since 10 May 1976, when the new duties became operative, are now required to pay the outstanding amounts. The arrangements for settling these outstanding liabilities are contained in Customs Notices 474(S) and 475(S), copies of which may be obtained from any Collector of Customs Excise.

The changes are contained in the 1976 Finance Act which received Royal Assent on 29 July.

New edition of the Seaway Code

A revised and enlarged edition of the Seaway Code, the Department of Trade's free guide for users of small boats has been published.

Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, who has special responsibility for shipping and marine subjects, welcomed the publication of the revised Code on 9 August. He said: 'The Code has more than proved its worth since we launched the first edition just over two years ago.'

Copies of the new edition of the Seaway Code are available free of charge from Marine Survey Offices, coastguard stations, or from the Department of Trade, Room 306, Gaywood House, Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3LW. Copies will also be available from rescue and other organisations and at the following exhibitions:

West of England Boat Show, 14-21 August, Plymouth
Brixham Regatta, 22-24 August
Burnham Regatta, 28 August-4 September, Burnham on Crouch
Southampton Boat Show, 13-18 September

The revised Collision Regulations contained in the Final Act of the International Conference on Revision of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (Cmnd. 5471, HMSO), will come into force in July 1977.

The new Combined Cardinal and Lateral System of Buoyage, known as 'System A' has been approved by the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities which has for several years been seeking a way to reduce the numerous national maritime buoyage systems in use throughout the world. The new system will be introduced in the North West European Area over a period beginning in April 1977. Work will begin in part of the English Channel area and the system will be progressively implemented along the coasts of the countries bordering the North Sea and the Baltic.

Undertaking regarding retail petrol suppliers in the United Kingdom

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has accepted proposals by the Director General of Fair Trading for the revision of undertakings given in 1966 by oil companies following the Monopolies Commission report on the supply of petrol to retailers. This was announced in Parliament on 3 August by John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection (see last week's *Trade and Industry*, page 362). The text of the revised undertakings is published below.

PART I – (Solus petrol ties)

Undertaking as to solus petrol ties (other than ties on equipment)

1 The Company will not enter into any agreement with a petrol retailer which includes a solus tie which will or may affect any petrol filling station for more than five years unless the agreement in question permits the retailer, by giving such notice (not exceeding 12 months) as may be required by the agreement to determine the operation of the tie without any penalty whatsoever at any time more than five years after the first day following the making of the agreement on which petrol was supplied by the Company or an associated company for retail sale at the relevant petrol filling station:

Provided that nothing in this paragraph –

(i) shall apply
  (a) to any agreement in so far as it relates to a filling station situated on company premises or in a motorway service area;
  (b) to any credit sale, hire purchase or hiring agreement relating to petrol equipment, that is to say, storage tanks, pumping equipment and other articles used in connection with the retail sale of petrol, or to any agreement for the loan of such equipment if the only solus tie in the agreement is a term restricting the petrol in relation to which the equipment may be used; or

(ii) shall preclude the Company from making the right to determine the operation of a solus tie conditional upon
  (a) the repayment by the retailer of the outstanding amount of any monies loaned to him by the Company or an associated company together with such amount by way of interest as may then be due under the loan agreement; and
  (b) the payment of all sums due to and demanded by the Company or an associated company in respect of petrol or other goods supplied for resale at the relevant filling station.

Undertaking as to solus ties in agreements relating to the supply of petrol equipment

2 The Company will—

(a) (i) include in any such credit sale or hire purchase agreement as is mentioned in head (i) (b) of the proviso to paragraph (1) above, a term permitting the retailer to determine the operation of the solus tie at any time more than five years after the installation of the relevant equipment by giving such notice (not exceeding 12 months) as may be required by the agreement and, before the expiry of the notice, tendering payment of such sum as may be specified in the agreement not being an amount exceeding the sum of all the instalments still to be paid plus, in the case of a hire purchase agreement, any sum payable on the exercise of the option to purchase;

(ii) where notice is given and payment tendered as aforesaid pursuant to a term included in a hire purchase agreement, permit the retailer to acquire ownership of the relevant equipment when payment is so tendered;

(b) (i) permit any retailer to whom any petrol equipment is loaned or hired pursuant to such a loan or hire agreement as is mentioned in head (i) (b) of the proviso to paragraph (1) above to return that equipment to the Company or (if he so chooses) purchase it free of the solus tie at any time more than five years after it was installed; and

(ii) ensure that the price payable on any such purchase or a formula by reference to which that price may be calculated is mentioned in the relevant hire or loan agreement, being a price which is not unreasonable in relation to the value of the benefit conferred on the retailer by the acquisition of the equipment having regard to the cost to the Company of providing, and where appropriate installing and maintaining, the equipment less (in the case of any hired equipment) any payments made to the Company by way of hire.

Provided that –

(i) nothing in this paragraph shall apply to any agreement relating to equipment for use exclusively on Company premises; and

(ii) nothing in head (b) of this paragraph shall require the Company to accept the return of or sell any equipment unless the retailer shall have given any such notice (not exceeding 12 months) as may be specified in the relevant hire or loan agreement.

Undertaking as to loan agreements

3 The Company will not enter into any agreement for or connected with the giving of a loan to a petrol retailer which includes a term the effect of which is or may be that the amount or date of any repayment is fixed or to be determined by reference to any quantity of, or the price of any quantity of, petrol acquired for sale or sold at any petrol filling station affected by a solus tie other than a filling station standing on company premises.

Undertaking as to the determination of solus petrol ties existing at the date of these undertakings

4 The Company will permit any petrol retailer carrying on business at a petrol filling station affected by a solus tie included in an agreement made before the date of these undertakings (being an agreement which will or may have effect after the expiry of the period of five years hereinafter mentioned), by giving 12 months' written notice, to determine the operation of the tie in relation to that station without any penalty whatsoever at any time more than five years after the date of these undertakings or five years after the date on which the Company or an associated company first supplied petrol for retail sale at that filling station, whichever is the later:

Provided that nothing in this paragraph –

(i) shall apply to any agreement in so far as it relates to a filling station situated on company premises or in a motorway service area or to equipment for use at such a station;

(ii) shall require the Company –
  (a) to continue to supply petrol to a petrol retailer at a filling station which has ceased to be affected by a solus tie or to discharge further any other obligation connected with the promotion of petrol sales at such a station; or
  (b) to permit a solus tie to be determined at a time when the retailer has not paid all sums due to and demanded by the Company or an associated company in respect of petrol or other goods supplied for resale at the relevant filling station; or
  (c) to permit a solus tie to be determined unless the retailer tenders payment of the whole amount still to be paid under any hire purchase or credit sale agreement made between him and the Company or an associated company and relating to equipment for use

by the retailer in the course of his business;

(d) to permit a solus tie to be determinded unless the retailer tenders payment of the outstanding balance of any sums loaned to him by the Company or an associated company in the course of his business together with an appropriate amount of interest;

(e) to permit the determination of any solus tie included in an agreement relating to the hiring or borrowing by the retailer of any petrol equipment unless the retailer either –

(i) in accordance with any appropriate term of the agreement governing the hiring or loan of the equipment returns the equipment to the Company or purchases it; or

(ii) where there is no such appropriate term makes and carries out such arrangements with the Company as to the return of that equipment or its purchase as the retailer and the Company may agree upon.

5 In relation to head (e) (ii) of the proviso to paragraph (4) above the Company will—

(i) in any case where it is not reasonably practicable to remove the relevant equipment and the equipment is the Company's property, offer to sell it to the retailer at a price which is not unreasonable in relation to the value of the benefit which is conferred by the purchase having regard to the cost to the Company of providing and, where appropriate, installing and maintaining the equipment less any payments made to the Company by way of hire; and

(ii) obtain and accept an independent estimate of such a price in any case in which the retailer is not prepared to accept a price proposed by the Company.

PART II – (Ties as to lubricants, etc.)

Undertaking as to agreements restricting sales of lubricants, etc.

6 The Company will not enter into any agreement with a petrol retailer (including a tenant or licensee of company premises) the effect or intended effect of which is:

(a) to require the retailer to limit the brands of lubricants, kerosene or anti-freeze preparations acquired for sale, offered for sale, used, sold, displayed or advertised by him in the course of his retail business;

(b) to require the retailer to acquire for sale, use or sell in the course of his retail business a specified proportion (however expressed) of lubricants, kerosene or anti-freeze preparations of a particular brand;

(c) to give the retailer a right to a rebate discount or other advantage (whether financial or otherwise) –

(i) for restricting the lubricants, or kerosene or anti-freeze preparations acquired for sale, offered for sale, used, sold, displayed or advertised, in the course of his retail business to lubricants or kerosene or anti-freeze preparations of a particular brand; or

(ii) for limiting in any way the quantity of any brand of such goods which is acquired for sale or stocked or the manner in which any brand of such goods is displayed, offered for sale or advertised by him in the course of his retail business; or

(iii) calculated by reference to the relative amounts of such goods of different brands which are acquired, sold, stocked, used or displayed by him in the course of his retail business;

(d) to require the retailer to take delivery of any specific quantity of lubricants to be supplied by the Company or an associated company at a time which is or may be more than three months after the date of the agreement.

PROVIDED THAT nothing in this paragraph shall apply to any agreement in so far as it –

(a) relates to the use of a lubricating bay at a petrol filling station standing on company premises or the advertising of the services provided in such a lubricating bay; or

(b) restricts the use of lubricating equipment supplied by the Company or an associated company in connection with lubricants not supplied by the Company or an associated company.

Undertaking as to ties in respect of lubricating equipment

7 The Company will not enter into any agreement with a petrol retailer prohibiting or restricting the use of any lubricating equipment in connection with lubricants not supplied by the Company or an associated company except where the equipment is supplied by the Company or an associated company –

(a) on loan or hire or on hire purchase or credit sale terms; or

(b) for use in a lubricating bay at a petrol filling station standing on company premises.

8 Where the Company after the date of these undertakings enters into any agreement for the supply on hire or loan of any lubricating equipment for use on premises other than company premises or any agreement for the supply on hire purchase or credit sale terms of any such equipment for use on any premises and the use of the equipment in connection with lubricants not supplied by the Company or an associated company is prohibited or restricted the Company will –

(i) where the equipment is supplied on credit sale or hire purchase terms, permit the retailer to determine the operation of the prohibition or restriction at any time when all the instalments have been paid in full and to pay these instalments in full at any time;

(ii) where the equipment is hired or loaned permit the retailer to determine the hiring or loan at any time by giving three months' notice and returning the equipment in question before the expiry of the notice, or where there are practical difficulties involved in returning the equipment, by purchasing it at a price stated or provided for in the agreement being a price which is not unreasonable in relation to the value of the equipment at the time of purchase.

Undertaking as to agreements existing at the date of these undertakings

9 The Company –

(i) will not grant any such rebate discount or other advantage as is mentioned in paragraph (6) (c) above under any agreement made before the date of these undertakings save in so far as it is required to do so in discharge of a contractual obligation;

(ii) will not enforce any agreement made before the date of these undertakings in so far as the agreement would, if made after the date of these undertakings involve a contravention of paragraph (6) (a), (b), or (d) or paragraph (7) of these undertakings;

(iii) will permit any retailer party to any hire purchase, credit sale or hiring or other agreement for the loan of equipment made before the date of these undertakings to act in such manner as would be required to be permitted by virtue of paragraph (8) if the agreement had been made after that date and accorded with that paragraph.

PART III – (Commission arrangements, etc.)

Undertaking as to Commission agreements

10 The Company will not enter into any agreements or arrangement the purpose or effect of which is to entitle the Company or any associated company to any commission or other similar benefit in respect of –

(i) any acquisition for sale of tyres or batteries or other motor vehicle accessories or articles unconnected with motor vehicles, or

(ii) any sales of any such goods

by a petrol retailer in the course of his business at a petrol filling station (whether on company premises or not) affected by a solus tie included in an agreement made between the retailer and the Company or an associated company.

Undertakings as to agreements existing at the date of these undertakings

11 The Company will not after the date of these undertakings accept any such commission or other benefit as is mentioned in paragraph (10) under any agreement or arrangement made before the date if these undertakings:

PROVIDED THAT nothing in paragraphs (10) or (11) of this undertaking shall apply to any agreement or arrangement –

(a) in so far as it relates to any goods supplied or to be supplied to a petrol retailer by the Company or an associated company; or

(b) in so far as it requires payments to be made by a retailer who is a tenant or licensee of company premises by reference to his acquisitions or sales generally or by reference to his acquisitions or sales of goods of any specified class not being a class so described as to distinguish between comparable goods of different brands, manufacturers or suppliers.

Undertaking as to agreements restricting sales of goods (other than petrol and lubricants), etc.

12 The Company will not enter into any agreement with a petrol retailer –

(a) restricting the acquisition for sale, stocking, exposing or offering for sale or selling of any goods (other than petrol or lubricants) at any petrol filling station affected by a solus tie included in an agreement made between the retailer and the Company or an associated company; or

(b) restricting the advertising at such a station of any goods (other than petrol or lubricants) ordinarily sold at that station,

if the restriction is intended or calculated to require the retailer to discriminate between comparable goods of different brands, manufacturers or suppliers.

Undertaking as to the enforcement of restrictions

13 The Company will not enforce any restriction of the type described in paragraph (12) above (whether included in an agreement made before or after the date of these undertakings and, if in an agreement made before that date, whether or not intended to require the retailer to discriminate between comparable goods of different brands, manufacturers or suppliers) with the intention of requiring such discrimination.

PART IV – (Options and rights of pre-emption)

Undertaking as to agreements granting options, etc.

14 The Company will not include in any agreement relating to the loan of monies for use in connection with the purchase, construction or improvement of a petrol filling station any term or condition giving it or any associated company –

(a) an option to acquire any interest in the premises on which the filling station stands; or

(b) a right of pre-emption in respect of any interest in those premises

which is exercisable at any time after the loan (including interest) has been repaid in full.

Undertaking as to agreements existing at the date of these undertakings

15 The Company will not exercise any option or right of pre-emption such as is described in head (a) or (b) of paragraph (14) that it enjoys under any agreement made before the date of these undertakings relating to the loan of monies for use in connection with the purchase, construction or improvement of a petrol filling station at any time after the loan (including interest) has been repaid in full.

(PART V – deleted in 1968)

PART VI – (Leases and licences of company filling stations)

Undertaking as to gallonage clauses

16 The Company will not include in any lease of premises on which a petrol filling station stands or in any licence affording a right to sell petrol by retail on such premises a term giving the Company the right to terminate the lease or licence or providing for its automatic determination on the sole ground that in any specified period the tenant or licensee has not purchased a certain quantity of petrol for resale at the station in question or has not sold a certain quantity there.

Undertaking as to leases of petrol stations

17 Save in the cases referred to in paragraph (20), the Company will not grant or agree to grant a lease of premises on which a petrol filling station stands for a period of less than three years.

Undertakings as to licences of petrol stations

18 Save in the cases referred to in paragraph (20), the Company will not grant to any person a licence affording him a right to sell petrol by retail on any premises on which a petrol filling station stands unless the Company operates a scheme approved by the Director General of Fair Trading for the reference to arbitration of disputes between it and licensees about the termination or non-renewal of such licences and the licence is granted for a period of not less than three years.

19 Where the Company makes proposals to a licensee for the renewal of a licence or for the grant of a further licence to sell petrol by retail on any premises on which a petrol filling station stands, it will do so on terms that are fair and reasonable.

Exceptions from paragraphs (17) and (18)

20 The undertakings in paragraphs (17) and (18) shall not apply where –

(i) the Company grants or agrees to grant a lease or licence for a period not exceeding 12 months and the lease or licence is clearly expressed to be granted as a trial lease or licence to enable the Company to be satisfied that the grantee is a suitable person to be granted a lease or licence of the premises in question for a period of three years or more and the grantee has not previously held a lease or licence of the Company or any associated company in respect of any premises on which a petrol filling station stands;

(ii) the Company grants or agrees to grant a lease or licence of any premises to a person for a period of less than three years in accordance with a written request by that person for the grant of a lease or licence for such shorter period;

(iii) the Company terminates a lease or licence of any premises in pursuance of a provision allowing the company to determine the lease or licence in order to permit the demolition of the premises or in order to facilitate their reconstruction in accordance with an agreement or arrangement for such demolition or reconstruction made by the Company before that lease or licence is granted;

(iv) for reasons outside the control of the Company it is legally impossible for the Company to grant a lease or licence in accordance with paragraph (17) or (18);

(v) the Company grants a licence of any premises for a period not exceeding the six months following the death or insolvency of a tenant or licensee.

Continuation of short leases

21 Where the Company has granted a lease of any premises on which a petrol filling station stands for a period of less than three years –

(i) In the case of a tenancy to which Part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 applies the Company will not later than three months after the date on which the tenancy apart from that Act would have come to an end by effluxion of time, either

(a) give to the tenant a notice to terminate the tenancy in accordance with section 25 of that Act; or

(b) agree in writing to grant a further lease in accordance with paragraph (17) above

unless the tenant has given to the Company a notice in accordance with section 27 of that Act that he does not desire the tenancy to be continued;

(ii) In the case of a tenancy to which Part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 does not apply the Company will not permit the tenant to carry on business on the premises after the expiration of the tenancy without the further grant of a lease or licence in accordance with paragraph (17) or (18) above.

Holding over of licences

22 The Company will not permit a licensee whose licence relates to any premises on which a petrol filling station stands to carry on business at those premises at any time more than three months after the expiry of his licence (or the date of these undertakings if later) without the further grant of a lease or licence in accordance with paragraph (17) or paragraphs (18) and (19) above.

PART VII – (Definitions, Interpretation and Commencement)

23 In these undertakings –

(i) 'petrol' includes automotive diesel fuel;

(ii) 'petrol retailer' means any person who carries on a business in the course of which he holds himself out as willing to sell petrol for direct delivery into the fuel tanks of motor vehicles;

(iii) 'agreement' includes a mortgage or loan agreement unless the context requires otherwise;

(iv) 'solus tie' means any term the effect or intended effect of which is to prohibit or restrict the acquisition for retail sale, or the retail sale at any petrol filling station of petrol which is not supplied by the Company or an associated company, but shall not be taken to include a term providing for the payment of rebate by reference to any quantity of petrol supplied or sold or any term relating to the purchase of a specific quantity of petrol from the Company or an associated company;

(v) 'petrol equipment' means such equipment as is described in head (i) (b) of the proviso to paragraph (1);

(vi) 'lubricants' means any oil or grease intended for lubricating;

(vii) 'lubricating equipment' includes tanks for the storage of lubricants, racks or cupboards for the storage of pre-packed lubricants and any equipment, instrument or vessel intented to facilitate the application of lubricants to a vehicle or the insertion in vehicles or removal from vehicles of lubricants, and includes a hoist or a lift;

(viii) 'lubricating bay' means any part of of a petrol filling station where there is situated a pit, lift or hoist, being a part of the station primarily or exclusively used for lubricating vehicles, and references to the use of a lubricating bay are references to the use for lubricating vehicles of the pit, lift, or hoist situated in the bay;

(ix) 'kerosene' means kerosene for burning or illuminating;

(x) 'company premises' means any land owned or leased by the Company or an associated company or in respect of which the Company or an associated company enjoys any licence which entitles it to sell petrol to the public by retail there, or to permit any other person so to sell petrol there;

(xi) 'associated company' means any company which is a member of the same group as the signatory company;

(xii) 'group' means a body corporate and all other bodies corporate which are subsidiaries thereof within the meaning of Section 154 of the Companies Act 1948;

(xiii) references to leases include subleases;

(xiv) references to retail sales are references to sales for use or consumption by the buyer and do not include sales with a view to resale by the buyer;

(xv) references to 'the date of these undertakings are –

(a) in Parts I to IV of these undertakings references to the date on which the Company first gave undertakings to the Board of Trade in relation to the report of the Monopolies Commission on the Supply of Petrol;

(b) in Part VI of these undertakings references to the date on which these undertakings have effect in accordance with paragraph 26.

24 For the purposes of these undertakings no account shall be taken of any agreement in so far as it relates to any petrol filling station situated outside the United Kingdom or of any supply of petrol, lubricants or other goods outside the United Kingdom.

25 In relation to land in Scotland –

(a) 'owner' includes any person who, under the Lands Clauses Acts, would be enabled to sell and convey the land to the promoters of an undertaking;

(b) 'lease' includes sublease;

(c) 'licence' includes any form of permission not amounting to a lease; and

(d) 'mortgage' includes a heritable security, however constituted; and cognate expressions shall be construed accordingly.

26 (i) These undertakings, except paragraph (18), shall have effect from the seventh day after that on which they are first published in *Trade and Industry*.

(ii) Paragraph (18) shall have effect from such date as is announced in *Trade and Industry* being a date following the approval by the Director General of Fair Trading of suitable schemes for arbitration of disputes between companies supplying petrol to retailers and persons to whom such companies have granted licences affording a right to sell petrol by retail on premises on which a petrol filling station stands.

(iii) Until paragraph (18) has effect in accordance with (ii) above, paragraphs (17) and (20) shall have effect as if the references therein to a lease included a licence affording a right to sell petrol by retail on premises on which a petrol filling station stands.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

These following notes are not an integral part of the undertakings but may be read in conjunction with them to clarify their intended effect. Parts I to IV substantially reproduce Parts I to IV of the undertakings given to the Board of Trade in 1966. Part V of the 1966 undertakings was deleted in 1968 and is not re-introduced. Part VI extends Part VI of the 1966 undertakings.

PART I of the undertakings relates to solus petrol ties and is based on recommendations 1-3 of the Monopolies Commission's report.

PART II relates to sales of lubricants, kerosene and anti-freeze and is based on recommendation 4 of the report.

PART III relates to agreements between a petrol company and suppliers of tyres, batteries and other goods which petrol retailers may wish to stock, and is based on recommendation 5 of the report.

PART IV relates to a supplier's rights of option and pre-emption in connection with loans to buy, build or improve petrol stations and is based on recommendation 6 of the report.

PART V was deleted in 1968.

PART VI relates to leases and licences of company-owned petrol stations which were dealt with in recommendation 8 of the report.

PART VII contains definitions of a number of terms used in the undertakings.

Part I – Solus Petrol Ties

1 This undertaking does not affect arrangements between companies and their own tenants or licensees, nor arrangements in respect of motorway service areas.

2 In this undertaking the term petrol includes automotive diesel fuel.

3 Examples of a 'solus tie' (which may extend to arrangements at multibrand sites) are: a term whereby a retailer agrees to obtain petrol exclusively from a particular company; a term whereby a retailer agrees to obtain X per cent of his supplies of petrol from a particular company; a term whereby a retailer agrees to sell only a particular company's petrol through – say – eight out of 10 of his pumps; a tie on the use of any pump or any other piece of petrol equipment. (This list is not exhaustive). The mere offering of a quantity rebate does not constitute a 'solus tie' as defined in the undertakings (see paragraph 23).

4 Paragraph 1 of this undertaking governs the terms of solus petrol agreements between petrol suppliers and independent petrol retailers (other than hire purchase, credit sale hiring and loan agreements relating to petrol equipment in which the only ties limit the use of the equipment; these are dealt with separately in paragraph 2).

5 Paragraph 1 regulates the duration of the tie which may be included in an agreement. Five years is to be the maximum fixed term; the tie may run on thereafter, if the retailer can terminate it at any time on giving 12 months' notice (ie from four years after the start of the five-year period). A tie accepted in conjunction with a loan or mortgage agreement may be expressed to extend until the loan is repaid, but the retailer must have the option (provided he will meanwhile have repaid the loan) of ending the tie at any time after five years, subject to the same provisions about notice. If the retailer has not repaid a loan he can be required to repay it before determining the solus tie. Similarly he may be required to settle all outstanding payments due for petrol supplied to the filling station.

6 The undertaking provides for the five-year period to be calculated from the date when the supplier's petrol is first supplied, since

this may in some cases be much later than the date of the agreement.

7 Companies are free to include in agreements terms restricting to the period of the 'solus tie' any of their obligations, eg to supply petrol (either at all, or on favourable terms), or to assist in sales promotion or the maintenance of a station.

8 Paragraph 2 of this undertaking regulates agreements for the supply of petrol equipment (on hire purchase, credit sale, hire or free loan) by confining the 'solus tie' to restriction of the use of the equipment in question.

9 The general effect of the undertaking is that arrangements for the supply of 'tied' equipment must be terminable after an initial period of five years. In the case of hire purchase and credit sale agreements provision must be made for the retailer to terminate the tie by giving 12 months' notice, provided that he will meanwhile have completed payments under the agreement. In the case of hiring or free loan agreements, petrol companies must give the retailer an option to purchase the equipment at a reasonable price or to return it. It is for the parties to take account of the undertaking when drawing up the terms of the agreement, and to set out the basis on which the value of the equipment is to be calculated if the retailer exercises his option to acquire it. No mention is therefore made in the undertaking about an independent valuation or the particular provision to be made as respects the return of equipment.

10 The purpose of paragraph 3 of this undertaking is to ensure that arrangements for a loan from a company to an independent petrol retailer affected by a 'solus tie' should always provide a definite date for repayment or (where appropriate) for the payment of instalments. Amounts of repayments must be fixed but the undertaking will not preclude a supplier from actually taking payment by retaining earned rebate.

11 Paragraph 4 of Part I covers solus petrol ties in agreements made before the date when undertakings were first given by the suppliers. It defines the circumstances in which companies subscribing to the undertaking will be required to permit the premature termination of 'solus ties' accepted by independent petrol retailers.

Part II – Sales of lubricants, etc.

12 The intention of Part II is to remove certain restrictions at company-owned stations, as well as at the stations of independent retailers, in respect of the sale of lubricants, kerosene and anti-freeze preparations or lubricating equipment. It applies to kerosene only as fuel for illumination or heating.

13 The general effect of the undertaking is that the decision as to what lubricants to stock or use rests with the retailer. This is reinforced by the provision of paragraph 6(d) of the undertaking which limits forward supply agreements for specific quantities to periods of three months ahead.

14 In certain circumstances agreements which impose some restriction on the use of lubricants in particular lubricating bays, or through particular items of equipment, are permitted. In some respects, the undertaking distinguishes between the position at company stations and at others. The undertaking, therefore, does not preclude a supplier from

a restricting the lubricants which may be used in a lubricating bay (as defined in Part VII) on company premises (eg by a tenant or licensee of the company);

b restricting the use of lubricating equipment (on h.p., credit sale, hire or free loan), whether supplied to a tenant, licensee or independent retailer. But independent retailers are entitled to end ties by paying off the outstanding instalments of a credit sale or hire purchase agreement at any time or by purchasing or returning hired or loaned equipment on three months' notice. A company tenant or licensee has a similar right in the case of equipment on h.p. or credit sale, but not in the case of hired or loaned equipment, which is the company's property.

15 All other restrictions are prohibited, ie there can be no restriction on the lubricants to be sold on the forecourt by any retailer (including a tenant or licensee), or on the general use of a lubricating bay on an independent station.

16 The undertaking does not preclude general limitations on advertisement in a trade or licence agreement. For example, a landlord remains entirely free to prohibit the fixture of advertisements to buildings, or the use of free-standing signs. However, to the extent that advertisement is permitted generally, it is not open to a landlord to impose additional restrictions on the advertisement of particular brands of lubricants, kerosene or anti-freeze.

Part III – TBA (Tyres, Batteries, Accessories) agreements

17 Under paragraphs 10 and 11 of the undertakings a supplier may not participate in arrangements under which he stands to benefit from the promotion of another company's brands of TBA, etc., by his solus retailers, tenants or licensees. The proviso makes it clear that the undertakings do not preclude the supplier (or its subsidiary) from taking part direct in the TBA business, although this would be likely to result in some financial benefit for itself, nor from receiving a rent calculated on a tenant's general TBA business.

18 Under paragraphs 12 and 13 of the undertakings a supplier may not oblige a retailer to discriminate in the course of his business between comparable goods of different brands, manufacturers and suppliers.

19 This undertaking does not preclude a supplier, in his capacity as landlord, from regulating generally what business is carried on at company premises. A landlord remains free to impose general restrictions on his tenants or licensees, eg by prohibiting the retailer from dealing in used cars, or from displaying banner advertisements. To the extent that dealing in a particular type of goods is permitted, however, the supplier may not impose further discriminatory requirements, eg to require a retailer to promote the sales of one brand while prohibiting the promotion of another. The undertaking does not, of course, preclude a restriction in general terms, eg prohibiting the sale of goods not complying with a British Standard, but it would not be compatible with it to seek to regulate the brands of goods sold on general grounds of serviceability.

20 It has been suggested that an undertaking on these matters might operate to prevent a landlord from making advantageous arrangements with – for example – a catering company for the sale of refreshments on one or more of his sites or granting a franchise in respect of cigarette vending machines. This is not the effect of the undertaking. Paragraphs 13 and 14 apply only to discriminatory requirements imposed on a petrol retailer in the course of his business. It will remain open to a supplier, within the terms of the undertaking, to require a retailer not to conduct any catering business himself or not to sell cigarettes, and at the same time to agree an exclusive concession with a third party for the direct operation of a catering business or the installation of cigarette vending machines. Paragraphs 10 and 11 are equally irrelevant to this situation, since they relate only to sales made by the petrol retailer himself.

Part IV – Options and rights of pre-emption

21 Part IV provides that where an option to buy a filling station or a right of pre-emption has been granted as part of a loan arrangement connected with the laying, building or improvement of the station, these rights will be limited to the period for which the loan is outstanding.

Part VI – Leases and licences of company filling stations

22 The provision made in 1966 for the granting of leases or licences for periods of at least three years is continued. However, some minor alterations have been made to the exceptions to this undertaking. These exceptions now are:

a trial agreements with new tenants or licensees;

b cases where the tenant or licensee has made a written request for a shorter term;

c certain cases where three-year leases or licences are impracticable;

d certain caretaker licences.

23 The revised undertaking precludes suppliers from providing in a lease or licence for termination on the sole ground of failure to comply with a gallonage clause.

24 When paragraph 18 takes effect suppliers granting licences in respect of their stations will be required to operate a scheme approved by the Director General of Fair Trading for settling by arbitration certain disputes with their licensees about the termination or non-renewal of licences. In addition, the suppliers undertake that the renewal of a licence or the grant of a further licence will be on fair and reasonable terms.

25 Provision is also made to regulate the holding over of leases granted for a period of less than three years and of licences. Where such leases are protected under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 the tenant is to be given within three months after the agreed period has expired *either* a statutory notice to terminate *or* a fresh three-year term (subject to the exceptions mentioned above). Where such leases are not protected under the 1954 Act holding over is not permitted. Licensees are not to be allowed to hold over for more than three months without a fresh grant being made.

Technology news

Geothermal energy – the need to know more

Heat recovered from 'hot rocks' or 'hot aquifiers' (bodies of underground water) might cost less at the well head than low temperature heat derived from imported oil.

The heat beneath each square kilometre of 'hot rock' could be recoverable at a rate equivalent to 200,000-300,000 tons of coal annually for 20 years, while 'hot aquifiers' might yield a heat output equivalent to 50,000 tons of coal per square kilometre per year over a similar period.

These are among the conclusions in a report* prepared for the Department of Energy by its Energy Technology Support Unit which concludes that prospects for developing geothermal energy in the UK seem favourable enough to warrant further study. The aim of the report was to examine whether the estimated prospects could justify research to collect the necessary data.

The indications are that there may be significant sources of heat at about 100-200°C and the capital charge for extracting this heat should, at the site, be low compared with the present cost of fossil fuel.

However, more information is needed on the geology of the more promising regions, including areas of hot dry rock in Cornwall, Durham and possibly the Inner Hebrides and areas where hot aquifers are possible such as between Bath and Bristol, the Hampshire Basin and the Midland Valley of Scotland.

More will have to be learnt about the present and likely future markets for relatively low-grade heat (up to those temperatures which at present seem economically optimal at the well-head, say 200°C) in areas where the geothermal resource is concentrated, and the transmission and distribution costs associated with those markets.

Drilling techniques will need to be modified to suit geothermal conditions. A major technical uncertainty in the exploitation of dry rock is the feasibility of establishing and maintaining a cracking pattern to ensure heat extraction at the required rate. Collaboration with United States and NATO/CCMS (Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society) projects could be of considerable benefit.

Once the hydrocarbon reserves are depleted, North Sea gas and oil installations might well be converted to make use of these large quantities of heat which exist in the region.

The report considers the definition of geothermal areas, existing exploitation of this form of energy in other parts of the world, regions of interest both on the UK landmass and under the North Sea bed, drilling techniques, the possible size of the resource, the estimated cost of development and the value of the heat that might be obtained.

In some countries, geothermal energy is already in use on a large scale, notably those in hyperthermal areas on active plate margins and possessing natural steam fields. Italy, Japan, New Zealand and the USA each generate several hundred megawatts of electricity from geothermal steam fields and plan significant expansion programmes. Iceland, which is in this case limited by lack of demand rather than lack of resources, uses its geothermal steam primarily for space heating and not for power generation.

With increasing costs of fossil fuels, the semi-thermal areas are becoming increasingly attractive and are being investigated, for example, in the USA, some European community countries and within the NATO/CCMS geothermal project.

Ultimately, it is the cost which governs the depth of exploitation. This in turn tends to limit the temperatures achieved to below 200°C, so other non-power-generating uses of geothermal energy are under investigation. Typical applications are space-heating (on the scale of a district heating project) and low temperature industrial and agricultural processes.

The report states: 'The objective of a geothermal exploration programme is to locate a source of heat at as high a temperature as possible and as near the surface as possible, ie a site of maximum overall temperature gradient. Under these conditions, the maximum return of energy is obtained with minimum drilling costs.

'The geothermal gradient is determined primarily by the heat flow (a function of the temperature and depth of a buried source) and secondly by the conductivity of the upper layers of the crust. An additional factor of great practical significance is the possible presence of circulating water which may transfer heat by convection.'

The temperature gradients at the surface of the earth are classified into three groups, 'hyperthermal' regions (gradient greater than 80°C per kilometre); 'semi-thermal' regions (gradient about 40-80°C/km); and 'normal' regions (gradient less than 40°C/km).

The best known and earliest developed geothermal sites occur in hyperthermal regions where reservoirs of wet or dry steam are available at temperatures from 200°C to 350°C, but remoteness from an active plate boundary and the long term stability of the land mass implies that any such possibility can be discounted in the UK. However, semi-thermal areas may occur anywhere as a result of local anomalies.

A survey of available temperature gradient and heat flow data for the UK shows that relatively little is known and much of the UK landmass is undocumented. What information we do have comes from the mining areas, which may not be representative. Although in the UK, the mean temperature gradient is only about 25°C/km, there are some sites which differ significantly.

In the area between Bath and Bristol warm springs have been used for therapeutic purposes since Roman times. The maximum discharge temperature is 48°C, too low for most applications, but there are indications that the reservoir temperature may be significantly higher – perhaps 100° or more. Further investigation is needed to locate the reservoir from which these springs arise. Warm springs occur also in the Derbyshire and Nottingham areas; these have been demonstrated to rise from carboniferous strata re-charged by rainwater from the Pennines. Owing to the depth of these strata, however, the maximum temperature is unlikely to exceed 60°C.

There are a number of other areas in the country where rainwaters may be able to circulate sufficiently deeply for temperatures to approach 100°C. These are sedimentary basins – the main sites being in Cheshire, Worcestershire and Hampshire. Available data are very limited, but the indications are that the Hampshire basin could be promising, particularly at the western end of the basin. The current oil exploration drillings in this region might be monitored to provide valuable thermal data.

'Hot rocks' are another major type of geothermal area in the UK. This is rock, usually granite or associated country rock, which is at higher than normal temperature because of the presence of local heat sources but which lack sufficient permeability to permit water circulation. Two potentially useful areas have been indentified: a 1,500km² granite batholith in the Durham area which shows an above average heat flow and a thermal gradient of 31°C/km; and the large granite batholith, some 200km long and 30km wide, which forms the spine of Cornwall. High temperatures in this region have been documented since the early nineteenth century.

So far the Cornish granite seems the most promising.

One technique for extracting the heat which is now being tried in the USA consists of forming a large underground fracture system by static hydraulic pressure. Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory (USA) has demonstrated the feasibility of drilling and hydrofracturing in granite and is preparing to demonstrate heat extraction from the system of bores and cracks which are being established.

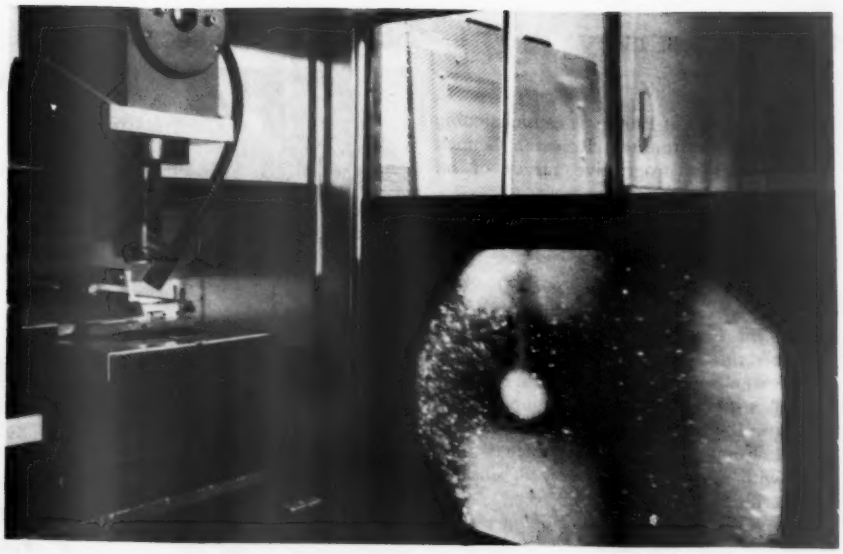
* 'Geothermal Energy: the Case for Research in the UK', Energy Paper No. 9 available from HMSO and Government bookshops, price £1.85 net.

Temperature sensing units

Conventional thermometers made of glass are unsuitable for measuring really wide ranges in temperature. When taking measurements in a factory chinmey, for instance, or in power stations or for temperature control in the process industries different materials must be used. For the last five years Rosemount Engineering of Bognor Regis has been developing temperature sensing units which register a change in electrical resistance proportional to the change in temperature, the materials in this case being high purity platinum printed on a base of alumina.

The company regard their 'Platfilm' units as superior to earlier types of wire-wound resistance thermometers and have now introduced a new low cost design, which is made using precision screen printing and the latest trimming techniques.

The new sensors have an operational range of between −50 degrees C to +500 degrees C and conform to current British standards.



Using a laser to trim the temperature sensing element (see the story on the left). Normally carried out behind a screen, this can be monitored on closed circuit television (right) magnified 400 times.

Diamond machining for infra-red telescope

An 8 tonne, diamond-machined disc of glass ceramic which will form the centre of the world's largest infra-red telescope, commissioned by the Science Research Council to be sited at the observatory in Hawaii. At Sir Howard Grubb Parsons Ltd. a peripheral grinding wheel is being used, impregnated with natural diamond, as the mirror's 1 m diameter centre hole is machined with a 45 degree edge bevel. After grinding with ceramic tools, it will take at least a year to polish the disc to the required standard.

Golf clubs by computer-aided design

Computer-aided design programmes have been developed jointly by Accles and Pollock Ltd. and the Tube Investments Development Engineering Department to speed the introduction of the next generation of steel golf club shafts. The company has reduced the time taken to examine the potential of a new shaft design from several weeks to a few hours.

Corrosion problem?

'We Don't Have Corrosion Problems in our Company' is the title of four corrosion control seminars which the Department of Industry, through its Committee on Corrosion, is holding in regional centres during the coming year. A seminar bearing the same title was held on 6 November 1975, in London.

The first regional seminar will be in Newcastle on Wednesday, 10 November 1976, at the Gosforth Park Hotel. The other three will be: 2 February 1977, Centre Hotel, Cardiff; 16 March 1977, Albany Hotel, Glasgow; 15 June 1977, Dragonara Hotel, Leeds.

At the morning session of the Newcastle seminar two papers will deal in general terms with corrosion and deterioration, also with attitudes towards corrosion within companies. During the afternoon session, several speakers will give short presentations on the way in which organisations in different industries have attempted to control corrosion to reduce unnecessary waste of financial and material resources that could otherwise arise.

They will use examples and indicate economic benefits which have resulted from application of straightforward corrosion prevention techniques. A further paper, by Dr. G. P. Rothwell, head of the recently-opened National Corrosion Service, Teddington, will review the main advisory services available to industry and describe the role of his service.

The committee believes there is a pressing need to stimulate corrosion awareness among many sectors of British industry, such as those concerned with building and construction, engineering, power, transportation and water. It hopes these seminars will prove attractive to senior industrial management, chief designers, chief engineers and senior local government officers as well as many other key personnel in industry whose activities are affected by corrosion.

Steel living quarters for the crew

All-steel living quarters for oil rigs and special purpose sea-going craft are now being designed and manufactured by Portasilo Ltd. of York, believed to be the first specialised service of its type in Europe.

Portasilo Ltd. are offering relocatable complexes equipped for work, sleep, meals or recreation at sea. The structures comply with construction regulations for living quarters stipulated by the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1960, the Merchant Shipping (Crew Accommodation) Regulations 1953, and the appropriate sections of BS 476.

Audio-visual hazard warning systems give special protection against fire, toxic fumes and gases.

The company believe that the problems of designing and manufacturing crew quarters to withstand the torsional stresses and wind loadings of sea-going vessels, can best be met by using steel structures.

Oil shales survey

The Department of Energy is commissioning the Natural Environment Research Council to carry out a progressive survey of oil shales in the United Kingdom.

Dr. J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State, Department of Energy, said in Parliament on 4 August:

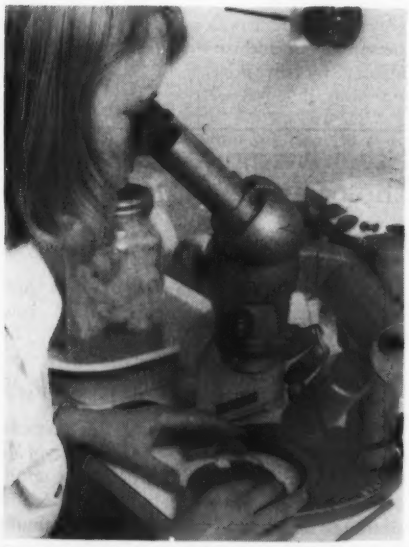
'Even at present oil price levels it seems unlikely that crude oil production from UK shales will become commercially feasible, at least in this decade.

'Nevertheless, in the longer-term national interest, my Department is commissioning the Natural Environment Research Council to follow up a recently completed pilot study with a progressive survey of onshore Kimmeridge Clay oil shales.

'My Department is also arranging for the economic and environmental aspects of shale oil operations to be studied.' He said that collectively, these actions would help to ensure that it would be possible to take informed decisions on the potential availability of shale oil, should the need ever arise.

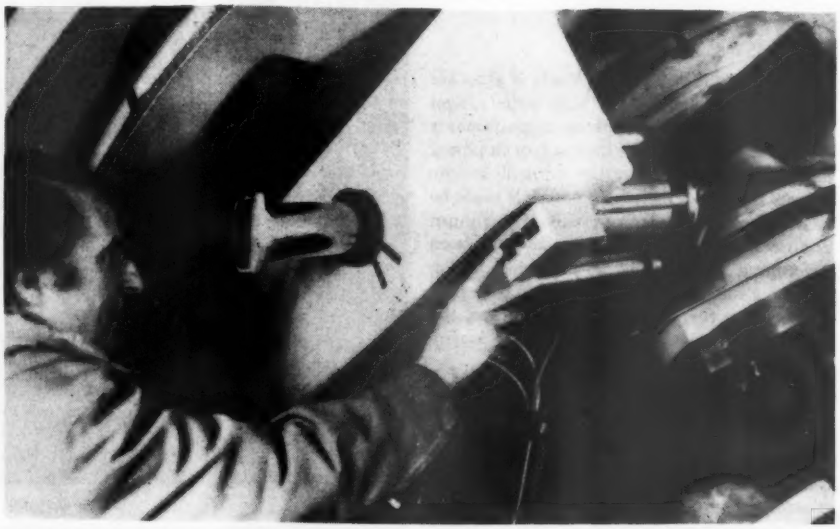
Containing the organic material kerogen, oil shales are in essence hardened sedimentary clays or marls that may be processed to produce a form of crude petroleum, leaving a substantial residue from which bricks, for instance, can be manufactured. These are commonly known as 'Kimmeridge' shales from well known outcrops at the place of that name in Dorset.

Beetles beguiled



Dr. Barbara Barratt at the Zoology Department of Durham University studying the biscuit beetle (stegobium paniceum), the larvae of which causes havoc in stored foodstuffs such as grain, flour, coffee, tea, tobacco and wood. In order to attract the male, the female produces a scent which, if it could be isolated, might be reproduced artificially. It could then be sprayed around warehouses, confusing the male beetles during the limited six weeks of their breeding period. If this were possible, Dr. Barratt believes an infestation could soon disappear.

Studying the secrets of the quasars



The electronographic camera, designed and built at the Royal Observatory at Hurstmonceaux. Basically the camera takes a photograph using about 20 per cent of the light coming through the telescope, whereas an ordinary camera uses only about 1 per cent. This is achieved by electrons being accelerated down a camera tube on to a photographic plate. The camera will be used to study the way in which quasars (pulsating stars) manage to shine so brightly, by producing a sort of 'contour map' of the brightness of the quasar or the galaxy being examined. Astronomers will be able to look for any further evidence of the existence of 'black holes', since one theory suggests that in the middle of each quasar is a gigantic black hole which 'swallows' millions of stars, producing the enormous energy which quasars emit.

Marine technology

The report of a marine technology task force of the Science Research Council's engineering board has now been published. The task force was set up under the chairmanship of Dr. J. Birks of BP Trading Ltd. with a substantial proportion of members drawn from companies and government departments involved in offshore operations to set up a programme of research and postgraduate training in marine technology for SRC support, to assess the need for special facilities and to recommend how these could be provided*.

The task force report says that there is an urgent need for universities, polytechnics and Scottish central institutions to develop a major programme of research and post graduate training in marine technology. In this field academic work will make the greatest impact where there is a close working relationship with industry and the promotion of such a relationship should be a prime objective of both the SRC and the institutions of higher education. It recommends that the SRC provide immediate support for a coordinated programme of research into technology related to the extraction of offshore oil and gas. This programme should be implemented through a limited number of major centres in association with consortia of collaborating institutions concentrating work initially in priority areas outlined by the task force, namely safety and instrumentation, underwater work and pipelines, floating craft and environmental forces, marine structures and materials, power generation and transmission and economics.

The report is published to inform all concerned of the engineering board's general plans.

* Copies of the Report may be obtained, free from Dr. S. M. Mellows, Project Officer, Marine Technology, at the SRC.

Courses on dry bearings and dynamic seals

Two more of the National Centre of Tribology's one-day courses will be held at Risley this autumn. Like their predecessors, they are intended for practising engineers and designers and the lecturers, all experts in their fields with wide experience of practical engineering problems, will be drawn from industry and the universities as well as from the Centre.

'Dry Bearings'; 21 September 1976 will cover the design of, and the materials available for, bearings which do not use conventional lubricants. It is the third in a series on bearings, the other two covering bearing design and rolling element bearings (Course fee £40.50 inclusive).

'More about Dynamic Seals'; 28 October 1976 will give a more detailed insight into the capabilities and limitations of seals and also into their application in more difficult situations than has been possible in previous dynamic seals courses. Seals for rotating and reciprocating shafts, some special types of seals and braided packings will also be studied. The day will end with an open forum. (Course fee £43.20 inclusive)

Application forms, programmes and also details of other courses are available from: A. J. Walton, NCT, UKAEA, Risley, Warrington WA3 6AT. (Tel. Warrington (0925) 31244 ext. 2640/3522).

Publications

Directory of European Associations: Part 1, national industrial, trade and professional associations, edited by I. G. Anderson. (560 pages. CBD Research, 154 High Street, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1EA. 2nd edition 1976. £30.00 post paid in UK. ISBN 0 900246 19 7.) *The Directory of European Associations* is designed to provide information on national associations – and where appropriate, regional associations of national significance – in all fields of activity in continental Europe. It does not include international or pan-European associations which are adequately covered in other publications (these are listed in the introduction), nor associations in the UK or the Republic of Ireland, which are listed in the *CBD* publication, *Directory of British Associations*. The first edition was reviewed in *Trade and Industry*, 3 February 1972, where it was noted that a second and possibly third part was projected. Part 2 was published in 1975 and concerned scientific, learned and professional associations. It is envisaged that the projected part three will cover the arts, sport, social welfare and other activities. *European Associations, Part 1*, starts with a detailed introduction which describes the scope, arrangement and structure of the ensuing text. Then comes, in five European languages, directions on the use of the directory, followed by lists of abbreviations and countries. All of the associations are then listed in alphabetical order with French and German translations where appropriate together with their textual reference number. Three separate subject indexes, in English, French and German respectively, precede the main entries. These latter form the core of the work and are arranged initially by subject, then by country in alphabetical order of standard country designation. Within country order, associations are listed alphabetically by name. Full cross references and indexing of all items is given. A full entry consists of the following: name and authorised translation; acronym or abbreviated name; year of foundation; validity indicator; address of headquarters; telephone number; telex number; notes on the association's objectives; membership data; activities; publications; former title, where appropriate. Both the scope and the size of this second edition have been enlarged, thus resulting in an up-to-date comprehensive tool essential for a full knowledge of present day European associations.

Venezuela: Business Opportunities, by Metra Consulting and International Joint Ventures. (177 pages. Available from the Financial Times Ltd., 10 Bolt Court, Fleet Street, London EC4A 3HL. 1976. £60.00. ISBN 0 900671 58 0.) Latin America has long been an area in which both products and capital from the United Kingdom have played a significant part in overall economic development: at present, prospects for foreign investment are increasing, and, as this study illustrates, Venezuela is a prime example of a country presenting this type of opportunity. After an initial fact sheet of basic national data, the report provides an introduction, followed by a summary of the main themes. It then seeks to identify modern Venezuela in an up-to-date appraisal of its geography, resources, economy, social development and in its relationship with its continental partners. The next section both outlines and evaluates Venezuela's development plans and the national budget, drawing particular attention to the fourth and fifth national plans. An exploration of the principal economic sectors follows this: items dealt with include oil and gas, chemicals and petrochemicals, mining and metals, roads, railways and ports, utilities, motor vehicles, shipbuilding and shipping, other industries together with agriculture, forestry and fishing. The next section, trading with Venezuela, covers trade policy and tariffs, import patterns and regulations, local contacts and agents and transport. The important subject of investing in Venezuela is then tackled; details include Government policy towards foreign investment, orientation and incentives, investment partners and prospects for the foreign investor. The commercial environment is examined in the report's final section which includes comments on registration and types of company, banking and finance, employment conditions, taxation, marketing and distribution. Among the five appendices is a checklist for potential investors in Venezuela composed of relevant questions and answers. Generally, the study includes a great deal of data and other up-to-date information from both published and unpublished sources, making this a useful compendium on an increasingly important country.

On-Shore Britain: 1976-77. Cambridge Information and Research Services Ltd. (401 pages. Gower Press. 1976. £18.50. ISBN 0 7161 0322 2.) This is the first edition of an annual survey of developments on-shore which support the off-shore oil and gas exploration and production activities currently being undertaken around the United Kingdom. It is principally concerned with identifying and monitoring opportunities which exist for industrial and commercial developments in the regions most directly affected by the off-shore industries. Also provided are background briefings on the local environment and amenities. From this derives the guide's two objectives: firstly, to measure and comment on the opportunities which exist for industrial and commercial development and, secondly, to review and report on progress made in improving the local infrastructures and amenities in these regions now faced with major expansion. Part one provides a series of introductory articles which give the background to UK off-shore development and its impact on local and regional development. Part two presents nine regional surveys which cover areas as far afield as the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and East Anglia. Part three looks more closely at 20 selected locations. These are the areas benefiting directly from off-shore development and are presented in alphabetical order. Each of these profiles deals with the following: local employment; current state of both offshore and onshore development; local communications; commercial facilities; housing and local amenities; local education and, finally, the current industrial base and expansion opportunities. A directory section is presented in part four in order to assist those moving into or surveying the areas concerned. In this section will be found addresses and other relevant information on regional and local authorities, hotels, communications and transport companies, estate agents and surveyors, employment bureaux and exchanges, public utilities and higher educational establishments. The guide is well illustrated with maps, tables and diagrams and also contains a select bibliography. It should prove valuable to all concerned with the local development consequences of Britain's oil boom.

Park's collection of debts, edited by J. K. Gatenby. (179 pages. Oyez Publishing Ltd. 4th edition. 1976. £4.50. ISBN 85120 271 3.) This new edition of *Oyez practice notes number 43* is a practical guide to the various methods and procedures available for the collection of debts in the county courts and in the High Court. Each stage of the process of collecting debts is covered – the issue of proceedings, judgements, and means of enforcement. A chapter has been added in this edition on debt collecting involving a foreign element, in view of recent decisions on foreign currency judgements and the frequency of international transactions. Apart from this chapter, the book is substantially the same as its previous edition, though of course updated as a result of changes in practice and law.

Catalogues of Government Publications

Her Majesty's Stationery Office offer their customers a comprehensive service which will enable them to judge whether any other titles in the vast output of Government Publications would help them in their work or leisure. Full information about this service can be obtained by sending a postcard to Publicity Section, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Room C46, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN, asking for the CATALOGUE SERVICE LEAFLET.

Parliament

Monday, 2 August

Companies registered in IOM

Mr. Stanley Newens (Harlow) asked how many companies registered in the Isle of Man are known to be conducting business operations in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Mr. Clinton Davies replied that 57 companies incorporated in the Isle of Man have been notified to the Registrar of Companies as having established a place of business in England and Wales. The comparative figure for Scotland and Northern Ireland is six and five respectively.

Imports of electronic products, etc.

Figures were requested by Mr. Ioan Evans (Aberdare) comparing the percentage rise or fall in fob prices of Japanese motor cars and colour television receivers during the period 1973 to date.

Mr. Meacher gave the following information:

Export prices (1970 = 100)

	Colour TV sets	% change	Passenger cars	% change
1973	94.7		103.0	
1974	105.3	+11.2	125.2	+21.6
1975	103.7	−1.5	133.0	+6.2

No later information is available. As the indices are undefined, it is unclear whether they are based on prices or unit values, the total value of exports divided by numbers of goods. The currency is the Yen and the measure almost certainly fob.
Source: Statistics Department Bank of Japan – Prices indices annual 1975.

Mr. Evans asked what criteria is taken into account in determining unfair competition to a British manufacturer from a country which has no domestic market for comparison.

Mr. Meacher said: 'If the unfair competition appears to be due to dumping or subsidisation which is causing or threatening material injury to an established British industry, the fair market price would be determined by reference to the price of comparable imports from any third country or the cost of production in the country of origin with a reasonable addition for selling costs and profit.'

'What criteria is taken into account in determining unfair competition from countries such as Taiwan, Singapore and Korea which receive financial inducements for the manufacture of electronic products from their own governments?' asked Mr. Evans.

'Whether financial inducements from governments such as those mentioned constitute unfair competition would depend on their nature,' said Mr. Meacher. 'Clearly we would not regard government aids similar to those available in the UK as unfair. But it would be otherwise if we established that such inducements constituted subsidies to exports contrary to the Gatt. If we could also show that such unfair subsidies were causing or threatening material injury to a British industry, countervailing action could be taken to offset their effect.'

'Will the Secretary of State for Trade take action to stop the increase in the number of consumer electronic products imported?' asked Mr. Evans.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'Following discussions in the EEC, the duty previously suspended on imports of electronic calculators from countries covered by the Generalised Preference Scheme has been reimposed on one major supplier. Other questions relating to imports of consumer electronic products are under consideration.'

Mr. Evans inquired if any agreement exists between HM Government and Japanese colour television manufacturers in the UK regarding the use of British-made components.

'The Japanese companies manufacturing in the UK clearly understand that HM Government expects them to maximise the use of UK-made components and materials in their products,' said Mr. Williams.

Overseas investment

Mr. Hugh Jenkins (Wandsworth, Putney) asked: 'What are the relevant current trends in overseas investment of British companies in view of the fact that this increased to a sum exceeding £1,500 million in 1973 and 1974 and that only 16 per cent was invested in underdeveloped countries; and how do these trends compare with the overseas investment of other countries?'

Mr. Meacher answered: 'In 1975 UK net private direct investment overseas, excluding oil, is provisionally estimated £1,124 million, about £500 million less than in the two previous years. Direct investment in developing countries fluctuates from year to year and in 1973 and 1974 was a higher percentage of the total than in the two preceding years when it was about 12 per cent of total investment. The only other country for which comparable figures are available is the United States and these also show much higher levels of direct investment overseas in 1973 and 1974. And there was a considerably larger increase in direct investment into the US from all areas of the world.'

Mr. Ivor Clemitson (Luton East) wanted to know by how much the UK balance of payments had benefited from returns on overseas private capital investment in each of the last 10 years, and how much was invested abroad in each of these years by private sources.

'The available information relates to net private direct investment excluding oil,' said Mr. Meacher. 'Figures for the years 1965 to 1975 were given in Table 1 of the article 'Overseas direct investment in 1974' on page 800 of *Trade and Industry* for 25 June 1976, a copy of which is in the Library.'

Titanium

Mr. J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked for a list of the provisions in legislation for which the Secretary of State for Trade is responsible similar to the provision in the Defence Appropriation Bill in the USA, which prevents imports of speciality metals for use in any Government contracts; and if he would make use of it in the case of titanium.

Mr. Meacher said: 'I have powers under the Import, Export and Customs Powers (Defence) Act 1939 to restrict the import of any goods for any reason, but I am not aware of any justification for using them in the case of titanium.'

Mr. Rooker referred to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement of 22 July, regarding the extension of selective import restraints, and asked if action would be considered on submissions regarding imports of titanium.

'I am considering a number of questions

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Lord Melchett
Leslie Huckfield

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

which have been raised on trade in this product,' said Mr. Meacher.

Mr. Rooker asked for figures showing the value of titanium imported in the past five years from: the USA, the USSR and Japan, and the value of titanium produced in the UK.

'No figures are available for publication for UK production of titanium,' said Mr. Meacher. 'Following is the other information:

£'000

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Exports (fob)	3,019	2,275	4,130	7,387	11,648
Imports (cif)	1,557	2,457	5,325	9,383	8,832
of which from					
USA	953	1,341	2,683	4,257	3,724
USSR	4	217	193	456	112
Japan	145	110	253	286	259

Mr. Rooker asked for a statement on the reasons for waiving the import duties on titanium in certain specified end use areas.

Mr. Meacher said: 'Under Regulation (EEC) No. 3074/75 of the Council the Common Customs Tariff of the European Economic Community is suspended for 1976 on certain thin walled tubes of unwrought titanium for the construction, maintenance and repair of the European Airbus and Mercure aircraft and also on certain bolts, nuts, screws, rivets and similar articles of unwrought titanium for the maintenance and repair of certain other aircraft of an unladen weight exceeding 15 tonnes. In accordance with the Act of Accession UK import duties have also been suspended under the Import Duties (Temporary Reductions and Exemptions) (No. 23) Order 1975. Such suspensions are granted in response to the needs of community constructors or operators of aircraft, and as is stated in the council regulation, take into account the capability of community industry to supply. They have been in force since 1 January 1975 and there was no objection by UK industry to their renewal for 1976. An application has recently been made by a UK user for a suspension of import duties on titanium wire for manufacturing aircraft fastenings. There is no objection from UK industry to a suspension for the first six months of 1977 and a UK request for suspending the EEC's import duties for this period is being considered in Brussels.'

'*What is the EEC external common tariff imposed on imported titanium, and how does this compare with tariffs applying in the USA, Japan and the USSR?*' *asked Mr. Rooker.*

Mr. Meacher gave the information as follows:

Per cen

	EEC(a)	USA	Japan
Titanium			
Unwrought: waste and scrap	6(b)	18(d)	12
Wrought and articles thereof	8(c)	18	12

(a) the rates shown are those of the Common Customs Tariff.

(b) The duty on titanium sponge and waste and scrap is suspended until 30 June 1977.

(c) The duty on certain articles of titanium is suspended for certain end-uses.

(d) The duty on unwrought titanium and waste and scrap is suspended until June 1978.

The USSR is a state trading country and rates of duty where applied are not known.

Air journeys between EEC member states

Mr. Hugh Dykes (Harrow East) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade, would initiate discussions with his opposite numbers in the other member states of the European Economic Community on the establishment of an EEC international airfares network, which would end the treatment of intra-EEC internal air journeys as foreign transit liable to IATA agreement on fare levels.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied, 'The proposal to treat air journeys between member states of the EEC as if they were domestic services would raise complex political and legal issues.'

Pilotage

Mr. Alan Lee Williams (Havering, Hornchurch) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would consult the Watermans Company of the River Thames and the Transport and Water Association before giving effect to the recommendations of the Steering Committee on Pilotage.

'When the SCOP Report was published all parties interested in pilotage were invited to forward their views to this department,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'Helpful observations were received from the Company of Watermen and Lightermen and any further representations from them or from the Transport on Water Association would be welcome while officials are preparing legislation to implement the SCOP recommendations.'

Use of natural gas by chemical industry

Mr. T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked what steps are being taken to encourage the British chemical industry to make full use of natural gas liquids available from the North Sea.

Mr. Williams replied: 'My department is in touch with leading firms in the chemical industry about proposals to ensure full use of North Sea natural gas liquids especially in the petrochemical sector. The Government is following up the recommendations emanating from the Industrial Strategy Exercise for encouraging investment.'

Labour productivity in the steel industry

Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury) asked what estimate has been made of the increase in labour productivity in the steel industry in recent years.

Mr. Huckfield answered: 'An index of output per man year is compiled by the Iron and Steel Statistics Bureau. Between 1967 and 1973 the rate of growth in the index was 3⅛ per cent per annum. Between 1973 and 1975 however, the index fell by 13 per cent per annum owing to the deep world-wide recession throughout the industry.'

Steel development at Hunterston

Mr. James Sillars (South Ayrshire) asked for a statement on the latest investment intentions with regard to steel development at Hunterston.

Mr. Huckfield said: 'Construction work is well under way on the Hunterston ore and coal terminal and orders have been placed for the two direct reduction plants which BSC intend to build there. The corporation's future plans also provide for the construction of an electric arc steelmaking plant at Hunterston, as announced in our statement on the Scottish closures review in August 1975. The Government have declared their intention that Hunterston should be the location for the UK's next major integrated steelmaking complex on a deep water site, but it has always been made clear that this would arise in the period after BSC's current 10 year development strategy.'

Steel production at Port Talbot

Mr. Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex) asked what the increased cost per ton of steel to be produced at Port Talbot would be as a result of the Government's decision to spend £350 million on the plant without any increase in basic steel production.

'My Rt. Hon. Friend's statement on 19 July referred to the Government's readiness to authorise expenditure on certain items of equipment at Port Talbot,' Mr. Kaufman replied. 'This readiness was in response to many representations from BSC customers, from the plantmakers and most recently in recommendations from NEDO Sectoral Working Parties, particularly about the urgent need for a new mill at Port Talbot so as to improve the quality of the hot rolled coil produced there.

'BSC are now going ahead with the second phase of coke oven replacement at Port Talbot but this is primarily intended to reduce pollution and will have comparatively little effect on costs. The corporation are currently examining the economic feasibility of continuous casting equipment to feed the existing mill and will be considering the proposed hot strip mill within the general review which we have asked them to carry out. Until we have received the results of these studies based on the latest capital costs and market prospects it would be premature to indicate the consequentials for the cost of steel under the various options.'

Re-equipment of manufacturing industry

Mr. Tom Arnold (Hazel Grove) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry is satisfied with the rate of progress in the re-equipment of manufacturing industry.

'The upturn in output is already well under way and there are encouraging signs that the increase in capital investment will this time follow more closely the upturn in output and demand,' said Mr. Williams.

NEB and regional policy

Mr. J. S. Crowther (Rotherham) asked how the NEB would be used as an instrument of regional policy, with particular reference to the establishment of industrial undertakings with long-term growth potential in areas of high unemployment.

Mr. Varley answered: 'The draft guidelines for the board require it, wherever possible, to expand and develop its operations in areas of high unemployment. The board is particularly concerned to establish undertakings with long-term growth potential. The additional funds we shall be making available to it next year will be useful for this.'

EEC Regional Aid Fund

Mr. Alec Woodall (Hemsworth) asked for a list of the amounts granted to each area from the EEC Regional Aid Fund for each year since the inception of the fund.

Mr. Williams gave the amounts committed by the European Regional Development Fund to projects in those regions of the UK containing assisted areas as follows:

Parliament continued

	1975 (calendar year) £000	1976 (1 Jan.-31 July) £000
Northern Ireland	7,751	4,967
Scotland (Special Development Area or Development Area)	9,852	6,155
Wales (Special Development Area, Development Area or Intermediate Area)	6,200	6,167
English Assisted Areas		
Northern (Special Development or Development Area)	7,175	7,250
North West (Special Development or Intermediate Area)	3,030	4,147
Yorkshire and Humberside (Development or Intermediate Area)	996	1,296
South West (Development or Intermediate Area)	779	168
East Midlands (Intermediate Area)	113	185
West Midlands (Intermediate Area)	11	—
Total	35,907	30,335

Small firms and Section 8 of Industry Act

Mr. David Mitchell (Basingstoke) asked if action would be taken to assist small firms to take advantage of the assistance provided under Section 7 and 8 of the Industry Act 1972, as recommended by the recent reports of the special working parties set up to examine problems facing the major sectors of British industry.

Mr. Williams replied: 'Small firms established in Assisted Areas are already eligible for regional selective assistance. Section 8 of the Industry Act, however, requires that enterprises assisted should be of significance in a national context. The reports of the sectoral working parties are being considered.'

Classification of regions

Mr. John MacGregor (South Norfolk) asked for a review of classifications for intermediate areas and unassisted areas, in view of the fact that there is now higher unemployment in some of the latter than in some of the former.

Mr. Williams replied: 'Regional policies are concerned with long-term structural unemployment and associated problems. Recession has had different effects in different parts of the country and these effects have obscured the underlying problems in particular areas.'

EEC price for tinplate

Mr. Stephen McAdden (Southend East) asked if a reduction would be sought in the EEC price for tinplate, in view of the increased cost of canned food in the UK resulting from the BSC decision to raise its prices for tinplate to EEC levels.

'No,' said Mr. Kaufman. 'The Treaty of Paris, under which the EEC tinplate producers operate, recognises the need for prices to allow for amortisation and to provide normal opportunities for a return on invested capital. It is these which the BSC increases are seeking to secure.'

Wool textile scheme

Mr. Max Madden (Sowerby) asked: 'What are the latest conclusions in the manpower implications of any extension of the wool textile scheme?'

Mr. Williams said: 'The application by the Wool Textile EDC for a further scheme of assistance is still under consideration by my department. The effect on manpower of a new scheme, if it is approved, will depend on the number and kind of projects put forward by firms. The EDC's proposals, which are fully supported by unions and employers in the industry, do not include assistance to firms closing down as was the case in the original scheme. However, the possibility of redundancies arising in any new scheme cannot be ruled out.'

Post Office Board

Mr. Michael Brotherton (Louth) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry has any plans for restructuring the Post Office Board to place on it union representatives.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'The Post Office management and unions are at My Rt. Hon. Friend's request discussing the possibilities for an experiment in industrial democracy in the Post Office, including the appointment of workers' representatives to the existing board. I have asked that the conclusions of these discussions should be reported, to him and we will then consider the need for further action.'

Planning agreements

Mr. Anthony Nelson (Chicester) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry is satisfied with the progress made in trying to conclude planning agreements.

Mr. Varley answered: 'As the House knows, eight companies have already agreed to take part in discussions about planning agreements and a start is being made this year on implementing the system with three nationalised industries. The Government aims to extend the system further this year.'

NEDO sectoral studies

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked what action is intended to implement the recommendations contained in the sectoral studies recently completed by the NEDO.

Mr. Varley replied: 'The recommendations cover a great variety of subjects and many are for industry or unions to implement. Those addressed to government have in some cases already been taken into account and all others are being urgently considered.'

Data Recording Instruments Ltd.

Mr. Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked: 'What was the cost to the NEB of buying 400,000 shares in Data Recording Instruments Ltd. from existing shareholders; what is the par value of these shares; and from whom they were purchased?'

Mr. Huckfield said: 'I understand from the NEB that it bought 300,000 shares in Data Recording Instruments Ltd. from Grundy (Teddington) Ltd. and 100,000 shares from the NRDC. All these shares were purchased at the par value of £1.'

Anglo-Venezuelan Railway Corporation

Mr. Grylls asked if the NEB has invested in the Anglo-Venezuelan Railway Corporation; and what was the terms and cost of this investment.

'Yes,' said Mr. Huckfield, 'for 35 per cent of the equity at an initial cost of £3,500 for 10 per cent paid up. Full details were released to the Press by the corporation in mid-March last.'

British Leyland

Mr. Grylls asked how many new major car registrations in the UK were achieved by British Leyland in each half-yearly January to June period since 1968.

Mr. Huckfield gave the following information:

Registrations of new cars

January to June	British Leyland percentage
1968	40
1969	41
1970	37
1971	41
1972	34
1973	31
1974	34
1975	32
1976	27

Source: Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

British Leyland foundries

Mr. David Madel (South Bedfordshire) asked when the Secretary of State for Industry would announce the release of investment funds for the modernisation of British Leyland foundries.

'British Leyland are still considering their plans for investment in foundry modernisation, and should be submitting them to the NEB for approval shortly,' said Mr. Varley.

Tuesday, 3 August

Selective assistance to industry

Mr. Grylls asked what is the total selective assistance to industry proposed under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 in the year 1976-77.

'Actual payments in 1976/77 are estimated to be £132 million arising from current approved programmes,' said Mr. Williams.

Advance factories

Mr. Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked for a further statement about the programme of advanced factories.

Mr. Williams' reply was published in last week's *Trade and Industry*, page 362.

Consumer representation in nationalised industries

Mr. Bruce Grocott (Sheffield and Tamworth) asked when the National Consumer Council report of its review of consumer representation in the nationalised industries would be published.

Mrs. Williams' reply was published in last week's *Trade and Industry*, page 362.

Import controls on cars

Mr. Hal Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch) asked about plans for the imposition of import controls on cars coming into Great Britain.

Mr. Dell replied: 'I have no plans for the imposition of import controls but I am keeping a careful watch on the trend of imports for cars into the UK.'

Gatt Multi-Fibre Arrangement

Mr. Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked what proposals the Government are putting forward in relation to the major review of the Gatt Multi-Fibre Arrangement.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'We are at present

very carefully considering this matter, with particular reference to proposals which have been put forward by both sides of industry; and we shall be having further consultations with industry. I would not expect that we shall have arrived, before the autumn, at a basis for discussion within the EEC.'

Japanese television

Mr. Ioan Evans asked what progress has been made in agreeing a quota of television imports with the Japanese.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'We have been in touch with the Japanese about their plans for imports of colour televisions into Britain, and they have told us they do not expect any sudden increase in their exports in the second half of this year. 51,728 colour sets were imported from Japan in the first six months of this year, as compared with 70,535 in the corresponding period of 1975. We are currently discussing with the Japanese their expectations for portable monochrome sets.'

Mr. Evans asked what variation there has been in the cost of Japanese colour television sets imported since 1974; and what has been the percentage increase in the UK rate of inflation over the same period.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'The average value for Japanese colour sets derived from the United Kingdom import statistics was £114 cif in 1974 and £119 cif in the first half 1976. It should be stressed that changes in average values are influenced by differences in the mix of set sizes imported during the two periods, together with other factors such as different makes and qualities and transport costs. The retail price index over this period increased by 40 per cent.'

Overseas investment

Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked what was: (a) the gross amount of capital flow into investment in manufacturing industry overseas from the UK in each of the years 1970 to 1975 and the first six months of 1976 and (b) the gross flow of capital investment into UK manufacturing industry from overseas (all sources) in the same period.

Mr. Meacher replied that the only information available relates to net direct investment in manufacturing industry, excluding oil, and was as follows.

£ million

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Net UK direct investment in overseas manufacturing industry(1)	312.8	383.8	353.5	839.5	838.3
Net overseas direct investment in UK manufacturing industry(1)	268.9	339.5	210.9	420.7	428.5

(1) Excluding oil

Wednesday, 4 August

Price Check Scheme

Mr. R. C. Mitchell (Southampton, Itchen) asked for a statement about the results of the Price Commission's monitoring of the Price Check Scheme.

Mrs. Williams's reply is on page 437.

Metrication

Mr. Ioan Evans asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, would give the assurances sought by the National Consumer Council in connection with metrication.

Mr. Fraser's reply is on page 434.

Unit pricing

Mrs. Ann Taylor (Bolton West) asked for a statement about the progress of the programme of unit pricing.

Mr. Maclennan's reply is on page 436.

Cammell Laird

Mr. Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked for a statement about Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'In 1972 the Government decided to make available up to £20 million in direct assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972, to enable Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd. to strengthen its position and to carry out a modernisation programme then estimated to cost £14 million, of which £5 million would have come from statutory grants. The company has traded profitably for the four years since then and there have been no bank borrowings to date. The company's order book extends to the end of 1978 with capacity substantially utilised through 1977.

'Difficulties with the modernisation programme led to the appointment of a new contractor. As a result of this and of inflation the estimated cost of the programme has risen to £32.5 million of which statutory grants should provide £6.5 million. Contract claims against the original contractor are being pursued. It will be understood that I cannot comment on them. Depending on their outcome the company in order to complete the programme may need up to a maximum of £6 million beyond the £20 million already committed, all of which will now be applied to the programme.

'My department has conducted a thorough review of the modernisation programme, and of the company's prospects, and has consulted the Organising Committee for British Shipbuilders. The Organising Committee have formally decided that they would wish to complete the programme; and have accepted responsibility for meeting expenditure on it incurred after the vesting day for British Shipbuilders.

'To cover the contingency that before the company vests in British Shipbuilders expenditure on the programme may exceed the £20 million already committed, I have decided to provide the company with further direct assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 up to a maximum of £6 million if this should be needed to defray the costs of the programme up to vesting day.

'In addition to enable the company to meet short-term fluctuations in its cash requirements, I have agreed to guarantee under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 a bank overdraft facility for the company of £3 million.'

Sperm oil

Mr. John Lee (Birmingham, Handsworth) inquired about the report commissioned on the use of sperm oil in the leather industry.

Mr. Williams's reply is on page 430.

BSC stockpiling

Mr. David Watkins (Consett) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry had reached a conclusion on proposals for the stockpiling of steel for the British Steel Corporation.

Mr. Varley said: 'In response to recommendations from the Iron and Steel Group and other Sector Working Groups taking part in the NEDO Industrial Strategy Exercise, the Government has agreed to a proposal by the British Steel Corporation to stock a further £50 million worth of steel, mainly billets, against the coming upturn in demand. The stocks will be financed under the established arrangements for the British Steel Corporation announced in Parliament by my Hon. Friend the Minister of State on 8 March 1976, and BSC's intention is to accommodate their cost within the Corporation's previously agreed cash limit. The stocks will be additional to the planned increase in BSC's working stocks, and will provide a valuable further safeguard against difficulties in steel supplies during the upturn in the economy.'

New ships

Mr. Ronald Atkins (Preston North) asked for a statement about the terms of credit available for the purchase of new ships in the UK.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'Under the EEC shipbuilding Directive, credit terms for both home and export sales are in accordance with the internationally agreed conditions laid down in the OECD Understanding on Export Credits for Ships of 18 July 1974. There are no proposals at present being considered in the OECD for amending the terms of the Understanding.'

Company registrations

Mr. Andrew Bennett (Stockport North) asked what proportion of companies registered at Companies House are six months late in filing their company accounts, 12 months late, 18 months late and over two years late, respectively and during the most recent available period of 12 months how many companies have been proceeded against for not filing their company accounts, or for filing them late.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'Because of imprecision in the existing legislation it is not possible for the Registrar to identify, without special inquiry, when a particular company enters into default in filing its accounts.

'The Companies (No. 2) Bill, which has just completed its committee stage, seeks to remedy the defect by requiring companies to have a fixed accounting reference period, normally of 12 months, and requiring the directors to prepare accounts in respect of each accounting period which must be filed with the Registrar within a specified time. During the year ended 30 June 1976 proceedings for failure to file accounts were instituted in 13 cases. A further six are pending.'

Mr. Terence L. Higgins (Worthing) asked for the membership, address and terms of reference of the Company Registrar's Users Group, in what way the Group have made representations expressing support for Clause 25 of the Companies (No. 2) Bill, and Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked for the names of the organisations and individuals comprising the non-statutory users group consulted by the Registrar of Companies in connection with the drafting of Clause 24 of the Companies (No. 2) Bill, now being considered by Standing Committee C.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'The Registrar of Companies holds regular meetings with all major users of Companies House to discuss

matters of common concern. Arising from one such meeting on 16 May 1974 it was agreed that a small Working Group should meet more frequently to give particular attention to issues arising from the modernisation and dispersal programme. The Registrar greatly values the advice received from the Group who are representative of all organisations using the services provided by Companies House.

'The Working Group has been kept informed of the progress of Parliamentary debate on the Companies (No. 2) Bill and has expressed its support for measures designed to improve access to statutory information, particularly those relating to the size, durability and legibility of documents delivered to the Registrar. The Group was not consulted on the drafting of any clause but took no exception to clauses 24 and 25 of the Bill and indeed, on 28 July unanimous support for clause 25 was expressed by a general meeting of regular users.

'The current members of the Group are:

Mr. J. P. Landau, Association of Certified Accountants
Mr. B. D. Barton, Institute of Chartered Accountants
Mr. J. E. Hampson, Committee of London Clearing Banks
Mr. P. Granville-White, Institute of Credit Management
Mr. P. A. Boyce, Law Society
Mr. G. A. Corderoy, Law Stationers Association
Mr. L. Curtis, Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators
Mr. B. Goldstein, Association of Company Registration Agents
Mr. K. N. Wardle, Trade Protection Societies
Mr. J. M. Dawson, Credit Reporting Agencies
Mr. D. S. Baker, Financial analysts
Mr. R. Milner, Financial journalists.'

Industrial exports

Mr. Clemitson asked for figures of UK industrial exports expressed as a percentage of the production of index of production industries for each of the last 10 years.

Mr. Meacher gave estimates of the value of UK exports of manufactured goods expressed as a percentage of the production of manufacturing industry on the basis of 1970 prices.

Year	Per cent exported
1966	25
1967	25
1968	26
1969	28
1970	29
1971	32
1972	32
1973	33
1974	36
1975	37

Sources: Input-Output Tables, Overseas Trade Statistics, Economic Trends.

ECGD

Mr. Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade is satisfied that the Export Credits Guarantee Department offers adequate cover to exporters who wish to contract for payment in foreign currencies.

Mr. Dell replied: 'ECGD's facilities are equally available to such exporters as they are to those who contract in sterling.

'However, since under the Export Guarantees Act 1975 ECGD cannot accept unlimited sterling liabilities, their practice in such cases has been to limit their liability to the sterling equivalent of the foreign currency at date of contract or shipment, depending on the form of cover given. This could, for example, mean that an exporter who had covered forward or borrowed funds externally against the expected receipt of foreign currency could suffer loss outside his cover from ECGD in meeting his currency obligation, if payment for his exports was not received at due date and the currency had meanwhile appreciated against sterling.

'I have therefore authorised ECGD to improve the cover afforded for contracts which are expressed in certain major foreign currencies and are supported by use of the forward market or foreign borrowing, so as to bring it more nearly into line with that provided under sterling contracts. Full details will be notified to interested parties and will become operative from 1 October.

'In summary, users of ECGD's comprehensive guarantees will benefit up to a specific extra margin of cover should they incur loss in the circumstances indicated above. Exporters holding Extended Terms guarantees will be able to obtain cover up to such extra specified margins as they wish, on payment of an additional pro-rata premium. For business on either supplier or buyer credit covered specifically, cover against this same type of risk will be available, but without a specific margin, on payment of additional premium. This last type of cover will, with the consent of the Treasury, be provided with the assistance of the Exchange Equalisation Account. In the event of a claim arising under ECGD's guarantee, ECGD will be able to obtain from the Exchange Equalisation Account either the necessary foreign currency at the rate of exchange prevailing on the date of the guarantee or any additional sterling that may be required to purchase foreign currency as a result of exchange rate changes since the date of the guarantee. The involvement of the Exchange Equalisation Account will be a temporary measure, lasting only until ECGD's own powers can be suitably amended.'

(*see also page* 462)

Thursday, 5 August

Twinlock Co. Ltd.

Mr. Michael Grylls asked for the cost to the NEB of its shareholding in the Twinlock Company Limited; the number of shares acquired and their par value; and what proportion of total equity these shares represent.

Mr. Huckfield told him that the Secretary of State for Industry had given his consent, under Section 10 of the Industry Act 1975, to the NEB acquiring more than 30 per cent of the equity of Twinlock Limited. It was understood that a conditional offer had been made by the NEB and would be considered by shareholders next month.

Anglo-Venezuelan Railways Corporation

Mr. Grylls asked for the cost to the NEB. of its 35 per cent shareholding in the Anglo-Venezuelan Railways Corporation Ltd.; the share value at par; and how many shares the 35 per cent represents.

'I understand that the cost to the board was £3,500 for 3,500 shares at a par value of £1 each,' said Mr. Huckfield.

Steel consumption

Details were asked for by Mr. Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) of the percentage of imported steel consumed by British industry for each of the last five years.

Mr. Huckfield gave the information as follows:

	Estimated consumption of steel by consuming industries Thousand tonnes	Total net imports of steel (1) Thousand tonnes	Imports as percentage of consumption
1971	16,726	1,414	8.5
1972	16,750	2,143	12.8
1973	18,445	2,506	13.6
1974	17,548	3,282	18.7
1975	15,448	3,034	19.6

(1) Excludes steel imported by the steel industry for further processing.
Source: Iron and Steel Industry Annual Statistics.

Chloroform and trichloroethylene

Mrs. Joyce Butler (Haringey, Wood Green) wanted to know the extent to which chloroform and trichloroethylene are used in drugs, coffee and cosmetics in the UK; what action is intended in regard to these additives in view of the ban on chloroform in drugs and cosmetics in the USA, and the proposed American ban on trichloroethylene in coffee, drugs and cosmetics.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'Chloroform is used as a flavouring agent and also as a solvent for tenacious deposits in a minority of toothpastes. Trichloroethylene is not used in the manufacture of cosmetics in the UK. Drugs and coffee are not the responsibility of my department, but of the Department of Health and Social Security and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food respectively. I am advised, however, that trichloroethylene is used as a general anaesthetic. The hazards of its use are well known to anaesthetists, and a judgment is made for each individual patient as to whether this is an appropriate anaesthetic agent. Chloroform is included in small quantities in a large number of medicinal products as a preservative and flavouring agent. Both substances can also be used as solvents in the production of decaffeinated coffee. They are not used in the UK for this purpose, but some decaffeinated coffee containing residues of these solvents may be imported.

'The recent carcinogenicity study on chloroform carried out by the National Cancer Institute in the USA is being evaluated by the relevant expert advisory committees together with data on other long-term

studies. I am advised, however, that the American tests produced no clear evidence that chloroform in the amounts used at present constitute any hazard to human health. In addition, the Food Additives and Contaminants Committee are reviewing the regulations governing the presence of solvents in food, and will include chloroform and trichloroethylene in that review.'

Price Code relief

Mrs. Audrey Wise (Coventry South West) asked what means are used to monitor claims for price code relief on account of stock appreciation; and to what extent returns are independently verified against the stocks concerned.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'Under the Counter-Inflation (Prices and Charges) (Information) Order 1976 firms will be required to give reasons for changes in stock values: if these seem out of line with past experience or with output changes the matter will be taken up by the Price Commission with the firm. The provision of false or misleading information would constitute an offence under Section 17 of the Counter-Inflation Act 1973.'

'Why can private sector companies have price code relief on account of investment but nationalised industries cannot?' asked Mrs. Wise.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'The investment programmes of nationalised industries are subject to government approval. Taking the Price Code as a whole, the treatment of nationalised industries is broadly on a par with that of the private sector, and the exclusion of these industries from particular provision of the Code does not imply that they are at a disadvantage.'

Mrs. Wise asked if there is any independent check on the returns submitted by companies to the Price Commission in connection with reliefs claimed on account of investment.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'When firms claim relief, the Price Commission check from the relevant minutes that expenditure has been approved by the board of directors. Thereafter, actual expenditure incurred is reported at six-monthly intervals. The provision of false or misleading information would constitute an offence under Section 17 of the Counter-Inflation Act 1973. Investment expenditure will also be reflected in a firm's published and audited accounts, which are reconciled by the Price Commission with returns made to them.'

Mrs. Wise asked: 'How many companies have had to reduce prices which had been increased as investment relief, between December 1974 and May 1976, because they had not invested as much as they had planned; and how much money has been involved?'

Mr. Maclennan replied: 'Shortfalls in forecast investment expenditure do not necessarily entail prices being reduced. When a shortfall is identified by the Price Commission's regular monitoring it is followed promptly by an appropriate adjustment to the company's relief entitlement so as to limit the amount recoverable to actual expenditure. For the amounts involved I would refer my Hon. Friend to pages 21-23 and Appendix 5 of the latest quarterly report by the commission.'

Company accounts

Mrs. Wise asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would take steps to ensure that external audits of company accounts are carried out by auditors who are not retained by the company in any other connection.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'Although it is important that auditors should not have interests which might affect their independence of judgement, the provisions of other services to a client company need not of itself create any conflict of interest, and a prohibition on the provision of such other services would create considerable practical problems, especially for small companies. I shall nevertheless be considering this question as part of my department's review of company law.'

Mrs. Wise asked: 'Is the Secretary of State for Trade satisfied that the interests of shareholders and the public are now adequately safeguarded, in view of the now common practice of auditors also being employed as management consultants by boards of directors and what information he has of the number of company auditors who also undertake management consultancy work for the companies whose accounts they audit?'

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'Detailed information is not available but I understand that some of the larger firms of accountants do provide a management consultancy service. This service is normally run as a separate entity. I have no evidence to suggest that this practice constitutes a threat to the interests of shareholders or the public but if my hon. Friend has any evidence to the contrary I would ask her to submit it to me.'

Balance of trade with EEC

Mr. Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea North) asked: 'What was the visible balance of trade on a balance of payments basis with the EEC Six, and the rest of the world, respectively, in 1970, 1975 and 1976 to the latest available date; and what were the corresponding figures if foodstuffs and oil are omitted?

Mr. Meacher said that estimates of UK trade with the EEC Six on a balance of payments basis, in total or by commodity groups, are no longer compiled. The crude balances of trade (ie exports fob less imports cif) are as follows:

Mr. Jay asked what was the visible balance of trade in manufactured goods, excluding diamonds, with the EEC Six and the rest of the world in 1970, 1975.

Mr. Meacher gave the crude trade balances (ie exports fob less imports cif) below.

£ million, overseas trade statistics basis, not seasonally adjusted

	1970	1975	1976 (Jan.-Jun.)
EEC Six	+95	−1,091	−635
Rest of the world	+2,194	+4,803	+2,940

• Imports of diamond by area are not available for publication: trade in precious stones (mainly diamonds) has therefore been excluded.

Export certificates

Mr. Patrick Mayhew (Royal Tunbridge Wells) asked for how long export certificates have been issued by the Department of Trade to exporters free of charge; for what reasons a charge of £3 for these certificates has now been imposed, and what revenue is expected?

Mr. Meacher said: 'Status reports have been issued without charge since 1934, but last April, against a background of rising costs and the pressing need for economy in public expenditure, the British Overseas Trade Board, with the approval of the then Secretary of State introduced the £5 charge which is still substantially less than the cost of this service. Present indications are that the charge will yield around £20,000 annually. The Government have received 24 letters complaining about the charge.'

References to Price Commission

Mr. John Garrett (Norwich South) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, what plans she has for further references to the Price Commission.

Mrs. Williams's reply is on page 437.

Regional development grants

Mr. Max Madden (Sowerby) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, what measures he proposes to take to give effect to the decisions, announced by the Chancellor on 22 July, to defer payment of regional development grants and to withdraw the mining and construction industries from eligibility for grant.

Mr. Varley's reply is given on page 428.

CRUDE TRADE BALANCES OF UK TRADE WITH THE EEC SIX AND THE REST OF THE WORLD
£ million, overseas trade statistics basis

	1970	1975	1976 (Jan.-Jun.) not seasonally adjusted
EEC SIX			
Total trade	−65	−2,193	−1,230
Total trade other than food and live animals(1)	+80	−1,401	−815
Total trade other than petroleum, and petroleum products(2)	+55	−1,752	−922
Total trade other than food and petroleum	+200	−960	−507
REST OF THE WORLD			
Total trade	−899	−2,041	−1,155
Total trade other than food and live animals(1)	+565	+213	+76
Total trade other than petroleum, and petroleum products(2)	−270	+965	+761
Total trade other than food and petroleum	+1,194	+3,219	+1,992

(1) Section 0 of SITC(R).
(2) Division 33 of SITC(R).

Parliament continued

Pilotage

Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked if the Department of Trade has reviewed the estimate of the annual cost of the proposed Central Pilotage Board contained in the SCOP report; and how any new estimate was arrived at.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'The SCOP report contained no estimate of the annual cost of the proposed Central Pilotage Board. As stated in the reply to the hon. Member for Cirencester and Tewkesbury on 26 April we estimate the expenditure to be of the order of £200,000 financed from pilotage dues. This estimate is based on a staff of not more than 20 people.'

Mr. Shersby asked about representations from interested parties following the publication of the Standing Committee on Pilotage Report; whether such representations were published; and whether the department proposes to amend its intentions in implementing any aspects of the Report in view of any recommendations received.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'Following publication of the SCOP report in June 1974 observations were submitted by numerous organisations interested in pilotage and by some individual pilots. These representations were not published. The Government took account of these views when formulating its policy statement of 12 December 1975, which will provide the basis for future legislation on pilotage.'

Friday, 6 August

Overseas investment

Mr. Hugh Jenkins asked what action is being taken to control British private overseas investment in the USA, South Africa and the EEC countries.

'All such investment is already controlled through the powers available under the Exchange Control Act 1974,' said Mr. Meacher. 'In addition, British companies investing in South Africa are expected to observe the Code of Practice covering wages and employment conditions of African workers.'

Small Firms Information Centres

Mr. Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) asked what percentage of inquiries received by the Small Firms Information Centres were from people seeking to start up in business for the first time in the years 1974 to 1976 or the latest convenient date.

Mr. Williams said that the percentages were as follows:

1 Jan. 1974-31 Dec. 1974	26.34%
1 Jan. 1975-31 Dec. 1975	16.21%
1 Jan. 1976-30 Jun. 1976	17.27%

Coastguard

Mr. Grant asked for the number of rescues undertaken by coastguard, lifeboat or helicopter services for the years 1970 to 1975 inclusive and the number of such rescues so far undertaken this year.

Mr. Clinton Davis gave the number of search and rescue operations co-ordinated by HM Coastguard, including life-boat and helicopter services, as follows:

1970	2,919
1971	3,518
1972	4,460
1973	4,811
1974	5,572
1975	4,628
1976 (to 3 August)	2,400

'As from 1975 certain minor operations are excluded,' he said.

Mr. Grant also asked for the cost of HM Coastguard for each of the last five years.

Mr. Clinton Davis said that expenditure on HM Coastguard for each of the last five years, in £000s was as follows (the 1975/76 figures are provisional):

£

1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76
1,495	1,771	2,261	3,170	4,633

'Coastguard accommodation and buildings costing individually less than £50,000 are not included in these figures because expenditure on such works and on maintenance of buildings cannot be obtained without excessive staff effort.'

Job creation

Mrs. Lynda Chalker (Wallasey) asked how many jobs are expected to be created in each of the assisted and non-assisted areas in the next 12 months as a result of regional aid; and what ratio of new jobs this represents per registered unemployed person in the area concerned.

'Information is not available in precisely the form requested', said Mr. Williams. 'Additional employment in manufacturing as a result of offers of Selective Financial Assistance is expected to arise within four years from the offer being made; estimates of the number of jobs in the assisted areas of each region as a result of offers so far made are shown in the table below. In addition, employment is expected to arise from the letting of government factories, from payment of regional development grants and residual payments under the Local Employment Acts. Regional aid is not available outside the assisted areas.'

Electric vehicles

Mr. T. H. H. Skeet asked for an investigation of the capital costs of an electrically propelled goods delivery vehicle compared with a vehicle of similar capacity driven by a conventional internal combustion engine; and into the comparative running costs of these vehicles less excise duty and VAT on fuel.

Mr. Williams answered: 'Outline information on the relative capital cost of electrically propelled goods delivery vehicles and those of conventionally driven vehicles is available but could be misleading as it is not possible until electrically driven vehicles have been further developed to compare on a like for like basis purpose designed vehicles operating in identical roles. Current designs of electric vehicles are derived from conventionally powered vehicles and the indications are that even after a production run of several thousand the capital cost would be at least 50 per cent greater.

'Comparative running costs, in so far as these are affected by the basic cost of energy, are also known in general and suffer from the same design limitations.'

Mr. Skeet also asked how much is being spent on research and development of electrically driven vehicles in the UK.

Mr. Williams replied: 'Both commercial companies and government-supported research institutions are engaged on work which might be expected to contribute directly or indirectly to future electrically driven vehicles,' said Mr. Williams. 'The amount being spent by private companies is regarded by them as being commercially confidential. The work in this connection is concentrated on the vehicle itself but more especially upon an improved battery (sodium sulphur). An estimate of over £6 million total spend has been made.'

Mr. Skeet asked for an estimate of the degree of success achieved with the sodium sulphur battery and the time span likely to be involved in replacing the acid battery.

Mr. Williams replied: 'It has been said that success with a battery to replace the lead acid type in vehicle application will provide the whole key to the future of electric vehicle development and commercial exploitation.

'The five party consortium undertaking this work in the UK is directed by a steering committee who are satisfied with progress to date. However because of the difficult and fundamental nature of some of the problems involved it is impossible to predict within the foreseeable, five to 10 year timescale when these batteries are likely to replace the conventional lead acid type.'

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT EXPECTED TO ARISE IN THE ASSISTED AREAS AS A RESULT OF OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE INDUSTRY ACT

	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76
Scotland	2,596	16,124	14,706	14,143
Wales	1,675	10,970	11,991	6,347
North	3,240	14,600	9,020	6,570
North West	1,399	13,472	9,661	9,117
Yorkshire/Humberside	835	11,784	8,170	4,637
South West*	686	1,739	1,344	1,356
East Midlands*	397	1,466	1,734	1,988
West Midlands*	—	—	34	60

* Assisted Areas only.

Company registrations

Mr. Peter Viggers (Gosport) asked for a statement on the removal of company files from Companies House in London to Cardiff, indicating the average delay currently being caused to persons making personal searches at Companies House in London before a file can be produced; how many personal applicants are currently informed at Companies House in London that the file they are seeking cannot be made available on that day; and how many files have been lost and mislaid during the removal of files from Companies House in London to Cardiff.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'The first movement of company files, ie those registered since January 1971, was completed on 4 August. Microfiche records remain available in London. The number involved totalled about one-third of the whole.

'It is planned to move the next third during late November/December and the operation is due to be completed by end of August 1977. The average time taken to produce records on microfiche is 18 minutes. Original files are usually provided within 30 minutes. No record is kept of the number of requests which cannot be satisfied the same day either because the file is already in use or is in course of being filmed, but every effort is made to produce files within 24 hours. No cases have been reported so far of files having been lost or mislaid while in transit from London to Cardiff.'

Accelerated Projects Scheme

Mr. Ioan Evans asked for a statement about the accelerated projects scheme and its success in achieving its aims.

Mr. Williams's reply is on page 428.

Microelectronic support scheme

Mr. Tony Newton (Braintree) asked how many of the proposals for support under the Microelectronic Support Scheme have involved co-operation between firms held not to qualify for direct support under the scheme and other firms; how many have been accepted; and at what cost, and also how many proposals for shared cost R & D microelectronics have come forward from companies held not to qualify for direct support under the Microelectronic Support Scheme; how many have been accepted; and at what cost.

Mr. Williams replied: 'There have been 91 projects submitted for support under the Microelectronic Support Scheme which involve co-operation between firms held not to qualify for direct support under the Scheme and those who do. Of these 91 proposals 83 were accepted and the department has paid £2,327,451 as its contribution to the resulting R & D work.

'Inquiries have been received for direct support under the Microelectronic Support Scheme from companies held not to qualify but, since eligibility is established at an early stage no proposals of this sort have been received.'

Trichlorophenol

'At how many factories in the UK is trichlorophenol manufactured and where they are situated?' asked Mrs. Audrey Wise.

Mr. Williams told her that trichlorophenols are produced at three factories in the UK: 2, 4, 5-Trichlorophenol is made at Bolsover, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire; 2, 4, 6-Trichlorophenol is made at Ruabon, near Wrexham, Clwyd, and at Oswaldtwistle, near Accrington, Lancashire. The type of plant which may generate TCCD as a by-product is that producing 2, 4, 5-Trichlorophenol.

Professional restrictions on advertising

Mr. Evans asked about the reports of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the supply of veterinary services, stockbrokers' services and accountancy services in relation to restriction on advertising.

Mr. Fraser's reply is on page 435.

Food prices

Mr. Arthur Lewis (Newham North West) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: 'In the light of the estimate by the trade that food prices will rise by 10 per cent in the autumn, what is the estimate by her department of such rises; and to what extent this will increase the cost of living index?'

Mr. Maclennan said: 'If the honourable member is referring to weekend reports quoting a Retail Consortium estimate, the Consortium have since pointed out that their estimate was for food prices to rise by 8 to 10 per cent over the next 12 months and not, as given in the reports, in the autumn. While the basis of this forecast is unknown, the estimate itself is not inconsistent with the Chancellor's inflation target. This department does not publish forecasts of prices.'

Misleading displays of price reductions

Mr. Clement Freud (Isle of Ely) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has sufficient powers to protect the consumer in the matter of filling stations displaying misleading 'offers'.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'The Trade Descriptions Act 1968 already provides consumers with considerable protection against false claims about price reductions. However, I have been concerned for some time about the confusing way in which information on petrol prices is displayed at many filling stations, particularly where offers are made of discounts or cut prices. Negotiations have been proceeding with the industry on the adoption of a voluntary code of practice relating to claims of reduced prices, aimed at telling the motorist the price he will actually have to pay for petrol before he enters a filling station. I hope agreement will soon be reached so that we do not have to consider introducing legislation to this effect.'

Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations

Mrs. Ann Taylor (Bolton West) asked when the proposed regulations amending the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1975 would be made.

Mr. Fraser's reply is on page 434.

Government Sales

Ministry of Defence

25 August 1976 Miscellaneous stores

Location: The Post House, Herbert Walker Avenue, Southampton SO1 0HJ

Auctioneers: Richard Austin and Wyatt (Dept. L), 79 High Street, Fareham, Hants PO16 7AX (tel. 03292-4211)

The lots which are lying at various depots in Hampshire include a mobile crane, vehicles and 54 machine tools. China and glassware, cameras and photographic equipment, compressors, hand tools, tyres and electrical spares, etc. 400 lots of furniture including bureaux, chairs, chests of drawers, wardrobes and other items. 300 lots of clothing and textiles including jerseys, foulweather coats, carpets, blankets, rags, tentage and a large collection of other service items.

1 September 1976 Miscellaneous stores

Location: The Bristol Esso Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol

Auctioneers: Russell Baldwin and Bright (Dept. L), 19/21 King Street, Hereford HR4 9DB (tel. 0432-55441)

The lots lying at various depots include machine tools, generators, jacks, teleprinters, volt and other meters, oscilloscopes, watches, tyres, MT, aircraft, electrical and electronic spares, furniture, clothing and textiles, 10-ton crane, six vehicles, and many other miscellaneous items.

Catalogues for the above sales which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p, postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

European Community News

New development co-operation proposals to go to council

Further proposals for the co-ordination of development co-operation policies in the community have now been sent to the council by the commission. The latest communication, which will come up for consideration at the next development council (now tentatively scheduled for October), follows earlier proposals sent to the council on 6 March 1975 and a German memorandum on the subject presented on 31 March this year.

In their new text, the commission explain their belief that the co-ordination process should be gradual, beginning with a strengthening of existing co-ordination structures. As in the earlier paper, the distinction is drawn between co-ordination in the areas of general policy, and operational co-ordination. Over the past year, substantial progress had been made in both these fields: in the seeking of common positions in international fora, and at the operational level, where the impetus had come from the application of the Lomé Convention.

More systematic co-ordination in the preparation for international conferences on development problems is called for, so that member states can endeavour to reach common positions on the main subjects of discussion. Among the subjects which will have to be examined, it says, are industrial and technological co-operation, food problems, the distribution and terms of aid, and the question of debt relief.

From the operational point of view, co-ordination would continue to take place within the framework of normal meetings between the commission and member states for the programming of financial and technical co-operation under the Lomé Convention and other agreements with developing countries. There might also be increased examination of both community and member states' aid programmes and policies. The commission also believe that co-operation should be strengthened when several member states and the community take part in the same international financing operation.

It acknowledges, however, that certain specific problems of particular concern to member states – for example, scientific research for developing countries, or technical co-operation against payment for certain groups of developing countries – will have to be examined in depth. The sharing of experience and expertise within the community should be encouraged by seminars and secondment systems. On relations with non-governmental organisations, for instance, the commission proposes to hold a community meeting at expert level in November this year.

The commission supports the German proposal that reports on the co-operation policies of member states be produced annually and suggests that the first of these be prepared by the commission in June 1977.

Recovery in EEC industrial production: 1976 figures

Following its marked downturn in the second half of 1974, industrial production in the community stabilised and then began to rise during the second half of 1975. The recovery has been strong, with increases in the last quarter of 1975 and first quarter of 1976 at annual growth rates of 12 per cent. The result is a first quarter level this year of about 4 per cent above that of the previous year and 4 per cent below that of its last peak, in 1974.

The steady upward trend has been widespread throughout member states, though the precise timing of the upturn varied from country to country. Seasonally adjusted monthly statistics published by the commission show the lead to have been taken by West Germany, followed by France and Netherlands. For the first quarter of 1976 production rose in West Germany, France, Belgium and Italy at annual rates of 11 per cent, 23 per cent, 33 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively. Though monthly figures suggest some slight slow-down for some member countries, notably West Germany and Netherlands, the present trend for the community as a whole remains firmly upward.

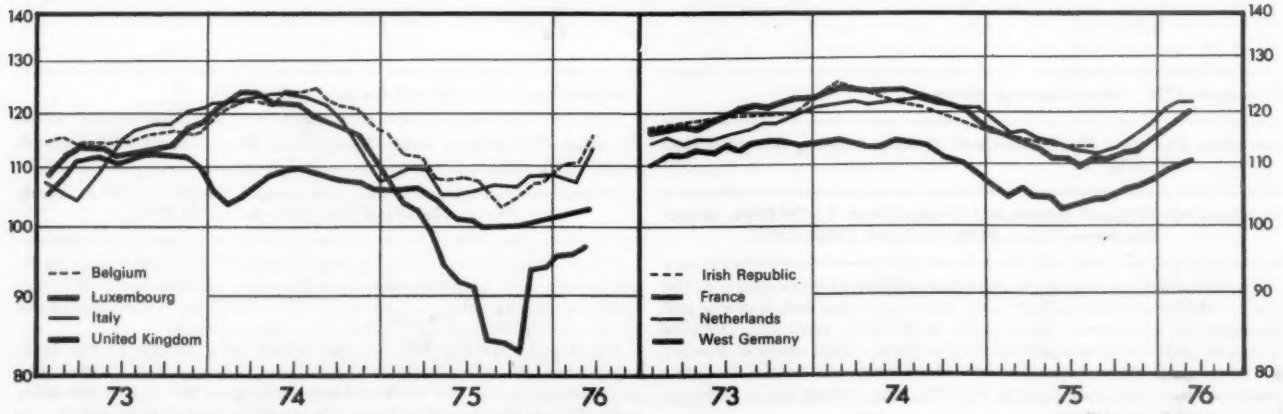
Leading factors in the initial stages of the recovery were the resumption of demand for durable goods by consumers and movement towards the rebuilding of industrial stocks. This was reinforced by reflationary policy measures introduced in various member countries to stimulate private and public expenditures.

Further impetus came from export demand rising by about 8½ per cent in volume terms between the third and fourth quarters of 1975.

The monthly production statistics published by the commission and shown below

Industrial production in the EEC

Adjusted indices: semi-log scales 1970 = 100



There are no available figures for industrial production in Denmark. Source: European commission.

differ from those reported by the OECD main economic indicators which are used as the consistent international source in the monthly *Trade and Industry* statistical feature, 'Economic Indicators of the EEC', (the latest in the series appeared in the 6 August issue of *Trade and Industry*). These differences are slight, however, and arise from the differing coverage and seasonal adjustment corrections used by these sources.

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842.

EEC generalised tariff preference scheme for developing countries 1977

Discussions are in progress between the commission of the European communities and the nine member states about the generalised tariff preference scheme (GSP) to be adopted for 1977, but it will be some time before the precise arrangements will be known.

A notice in the 19 December 1975 issue of *Trade and Industry* (page 798) described the GSP of the enlarged European communities for 1976. Background information on the general working of the EEC GSP scheme was given in *Trade and Industry* of 11 October 1973 and 3 January 1974. Details of the items covered under the 1976 arrangements were published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No. L310 of 29 November 1975 (obtainable from HMSO).

While it may be generally assumed that the goods and developing countries concerned covered by this year's scheme will also benefit from next year's, no assurance can yet be given to importers about the actual details of the arrangements, for example the preferential rates of duty applicable to processed agricultural goods, the size and precise coverage of the tariff quotas, or about the addition of further beneficiary countries for certain goods. As soon as details are available in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* a further notice will be issued and details will appear in due course in parts 10 and 11 of HM Customs Tariff.

The notice of 19 December 1975 (paragraph 2) also referred to the UK's pre-accession GSP. The phasing out of these transitional arrangements will continue up to 30 June 1977 (there are separate arrangements for Papua New Guinea) and details of these too will appear in part 10 of the Customs Tariff.

Any general inquiries concerning the EEC GSP arrangements for 1977 should be addressed to CRE1, Department of Trade (tel. 01-215 5470 or 5463), 1 Victoria Street, London SW1.

Inquiries about the UK transitional GSP arrangements should be addressed to General Division 2 of the Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Any inquiries about the UK transitional rates of duty applicable *outside the GSP arrangements* should be made to General Division 2, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, as above room 310 for chapters 1-24 and 50-63 of the tariff, room 341 for chapters 25-49, and room 308 for chapters 64-99).

Inquiries to HM Customs regarding GSP should be made to International Customs J3 (tariff quotas and ceilings) at HM Customs and Excise, Kings Beam House, Mark Lane, EC3R 7HE; and to ICE 2 (regarding other GSP questions) at Adelaide House, London Bridge, EC4.

EIB lends £26 m for Welsh hydro-electric scheme

Two loans totalling the equivalent of £26 million (42 million units of account) have been granted by the European Investment Bank for a hydro-electric power scheme in Wales.

The loans have been provided to the Electricity Council and the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) for 12 years at an interest rate of 9½ per cent.

The scheme, which will be the largest of its kind in Europe, is based upon the 'pumped storage' principle through which water is employed as a means of storing up electricity.

Using off-peak power produced during the night-time, water will be pumped from a lake at Dinorwic, near Mount Snowdon, to another lake at a higher altitude. From there it will be released to fall down again to drive turbines and generate electricity at periods of maximum demand, supplementing supplies available from other power stations.

The total cost of the project will come to about £280 million. The power station will be equipped with six reversible pump-turbine sets, which will have a total net output of 1,675 MW when acting as turbines. It will be built into the side of the mountain, in an old slate quarry, and should begin producing electricity early in 1980 and be fully on stream two years later.

The two lakes furnishing the water resources – Marchlyn Mawr at the upper level and Llyn Peris at the lower – will be developed to give a combined effective capacity of about 6.7 million m^3.

With these loans the European Investment Bank has now provided a total of £436.2 million for projects in the United Kingdom. More than half of this total – £237.7 million – has gone towards investments designed to improve energy supplies. These have included two nuclear power stations (Hartlepool in north-east England and Hunterston B in Scotland), exploitation of the Frigg gas field in the North Sea and various stages of a major pipeline network bringing North Sea gas to Scotland and England.

EEC directive on units of measurement

Recently adopted by the council of ministers is a new EEC directive on units of measurement. The new directive amends the original directive (71/354/EEC) on units of measurement designed to achieve the exclusive use of the international system of metric units (SI) within the community.

It modifies the obligations accepted by the UK under the Treaty of Accession relating to the disappearance of imperial units and sets legal terminal dates of either 31 December 1977 or 31 December 1979 for many imperial units.

The directive also provides for a review of the remaining imperial units before 31 December 1979. The units to be reviewed include most of the everyday imperial weights and measures.

More on the EEC

Information on EEC matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of 'Trade and Industry'. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

Home News
Consumers assured on metrication 434

Publications
Directory of European Associations Part 1 447

Parliament
Air journeys between EEC member states 449
Titanium 449
EEC Regional Aid Fund 449
EEC price for tinplate 450
Gatt Multi Fibre Arrangement 450
Balance of trade with EEC 453

Trade Information
NTI No. 1570. Cotton yarn from Republic of Korea 462

Tariff and Trade Notices
France: health certificates for fish 470

Statistics
Registrations of British, community and foreign films 484

New EC Legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations and decision which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities:*

Seeds. Decision 76/613/EEC authorising Italy temporarily to permit the marketing of commercial seed of certain species of fodder plants satisfying less stringent requirements (*Official Journal* L196, 22 July 1976).

Sugar. Regulation (EEC) 1763/76 supplementing Regulation (EEC) 1280/71 as regards the packaging of sugar (*Official Journal* L197, 23 July 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 1764/76 laying down certain detailed rules for granting the differential amount and the subsidy provided for the refinery of raw sugar produced in the French overseas departments (*Official Journal* L197, 23 July 1976).

Harmonisation of legislation

Inward processing. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L199, 24 July 1976, contains the text of Directive 76/616/EEC on the application of Directive 69/73/EEC with regard to inward processing authorisations for products falling within chapters 25 to 99 of the common customs tariff, originating in the EFTA states (ie Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Iceland, Portugal, Norway and Finland) and the Faroe Islands.

Further information: Department of Trade, General Division, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel. 01-215 5514.

Imports from non-member states

The *Official Journal* L196, 22 July 1976, contains the texts of the following decisions:

Decision 76/606/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to tableware and other articles of a kind commonly used for domestic or toilet purposes, of porcelain or other kinds of pottery, other than common pottery and stoneware falling within heading no. 69.11 and 69.12 C and D of the common customs tariff, originating in Japan and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 76/607/EEC authorising Italy not to apply community treatment to woven fabrics of cotton, other than gauze or terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, unbleached, falling within heading no. ex 55.09 of the common customs tariff, originating in Pakistan and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 76/608/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to garments falling within heading no. 61.01, 61.02 or 61.03 of the common customs tariff, originating in Hungary and in free circulation in the other member states.

Applications for copies of the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

Implementation of EEC poultry meat directives

Details about the implementation in the UK of EEC poultry meat hygiene directives* were given in the House of Commons on 4 August by Fred Peart, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. In a written reply to Norman Buchan Mr. Peart explained that the Poultry Meat (Hygiene) Regulations 1976, which had been laid before Parliament on 4 August, took into account the views of a wide range of interests. The regulations, he said, specified the hygiene standards that were to be observed in poultry slaughterhouses, cutting-up premises and stores, and required official inspection of the poultry meat produced. Parallel regulations were being made for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

He said that the main requirements of the regulations would begin to take effect from 1 January 1977, but they would be applied gradually so as to allow the poultry meat industry and the local authorities responsible for enforcement of the regulations sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. When these requirements were fully operational in three years' time, the great bulk of the poultry meat produced in this country would come from plants working to the high standards already required for export consignments, and the whole of that production would be eligible for export.

Mr. Peart also said that the inspection of poultry meat would be undertaken by trained poultry meat inspectors employed by local authorities and working mainly under the supervision and responsibility of official veterinary surgeons. The regulations assigned functions and responsibilities to official veterinary surgeons, environmental health officers and poultry meat inspectors. The local authorities providing the service were empowered to recover their full costs by making charges on the industry. It was the Government's intention that no cost should fall on local authorities. When the service was fully developed – from 1979-80 onwards – the average inspection cost per bird was likely to be about one penny.

Mr. Peart pointed out that the regulations included special exemptions to permit the sale of uneviscerated (New York dressed) poultry. In particular, the sale by producers of their own 'dry-plucked' poultry – the type which is sold predominately at Christmas – would not be subject to the regulations. These exemptions, which will be reviewed in due course in the light of developments, will serve to ensure that the demand for uneviscerated poultry continues to be met.

£5 million scheme for assistance

Implementation of the directives will require poultry meat processing plants to comply with certain hygiene standards. In a second written reply on 4 August Mr. Peart announced a £5 million scheme of assistance for the poultry meat producing industry, with the agreement of the Secretary of State for Industry, under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972.

Mr. Peart explained that the purpose of the scheme, which had been drawn up after discussion with industry representatives, was to maintain productive capacity in the industry by helping it to modernise its buildings, plant and equipment in response to the requirements of EEC directives on poultry meat hygiene. Assistance would most usually take the form of grants of 20 per cent towards approved expenditure, but additional help would be available to small firms in certain circumstances.

Further information about the directives and the scheme, as well as application forms can be obtained from:

IN ENGLAND AND WALES
The appropriate Regional Office, or the Welsh Department, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; or Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
Pig and Poultry Products Division,
Whitehall Place West, London SW1A 2HH
Tel. 01-839 7711, ext. 7158 or 491

IN SCOTLAND
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland,
Livestock Products Division,
Chesser House, 500 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh EH11 3AW
Tel. 031-443 4020, ext. 2297 or 2535

IN NORTHERN IRELAND
Department of Commerce,
Capital Grants Branch,
Chichester House, Belfast BT1 4JX
Tel. 0232 34488, ext. 552 or 277

* EEC directives 71/118 and 75/431.

Tindemans, direct elections and fisheries on September's agenda

Three meetings of the council of ministers are proposed for Monday 20 September, Roy Hattersley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, told the House of Commons on 4 August, when he made a statement about forthcoming business for September in the council of ministers of the European community.

Pointing out that there would be no council meeting during August, Mr. Hattersley went on to outline the agenda for the foreign affairs council on 20 September. Foreign affairs ministers would continue their discussions of the Tindemans report on European union. Fisheries matters would also be discussed and this could include mandates for fisheries agreements with Iceland and Norway. Ministers would also have further discussions on direct elections and would attempt to secure agreement on the remaining outstanding problems.

Other subjects likely to be discussed, he said, were passport union; relations with Iran and the Council of Mutual Assistance (CMEA); the signing of the additional protocol to the Portuguese free trade agreement and of the financial protocol; a draft mandate for the resumption of negotiations with Spain; the accession negotiations with Greece and recent development in the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC) and, possibly, draft directives on public supply contracts and on the right of establishment and mutual recognition of qualifications of nurses.

Agriculture ministers, also meeting on 20 September, were likely to consider commission proposals to restore market equilibrium in the milk sector, Mr. Hattersley told the House, and they were also likely to consider the community import regime for beef; interim measures in the sheepmeat sector; revisions to the hop market regime; and possible measures to alleviate the effects of the drought on agriculture might also be considered.

He explained that the agenda for the meeting of finance ministers on 20 September had not yet been fixed.

At the development council scheduled for Wednesday 22 September, he said, ministers would consider the implementation of the resolution on the harmonisation and co-ordination of development co-operation policies within the community; financial and technical aid by the community to non-associated developing countries; relations between the European communities and non-governmental organisations specialising in development co-operation and the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad IV).

Review of existing CCT suspensions announced

Notice of a review of existing suspensions of the community's common customs tariff (CCT) which are due to expire on 31 December 1976 is announced by the Department of Trade. The suspensions in question are set out in the schedule below and are in operation in the UK tariff.

Unless objections are raised by all or any of the member states of the community, it is the intention that these suspensions should generally be maintained for a further six months (ending on 30 June 1977) and for one year (until 31 December 1977) in the case of certain aircraft of heading ex 88.02 BIIC.

CCT suspended rates are the effective rates for the purposes of the progressive alignment of the UK tariff towards the CCT under the timetable set out in article 39 of the Treaty of Accession to the EEC. Under article 41 of that treaty the UK can, however, alternatively suspend its own duties down to the suspended rate of the CCT where that rate is lower than the one resulting from the application of article 39.

UK producers may object to the continuation of these suspensions where they consider that they are able to supply the whole or the greater part of the needs of the community of nine and that their interests as exporters to the original community of six, might be affected adversely by the loss of community preference which a suspension of the CCT entails.

UK producers who wish to object to the continuation of the suspensions listed in the schedule should provide as much as possible of the following information:

1 estimated community (nine countries including the UK) demand in 1977;

2 estimated UK demand in 1977;

3 UK production expected to be available for:

3.1 the UK market in 1977;

3.2 the rest of the community in 1977;

3.3 exports to other countries for the same year.

This information should be sent in writing to the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 332, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, not later than 3 September 1976, tel. 01-215 5515 (chemicals) and 01-215 3576 (other goods).

Schedule

Tariff heading	Description	CCT suspended rate of duty %
ex 28.18 C	Magnesium oxide, dead-burned but not fused, of a purity not less than 95% which contains: a not more than 0.05% by weight of boron compounds evaluated as B_2O_3 b not more than 3.5% by weight of calcium compounds evaluated as CaO c not more than 1.1% by weight of silicon compounds evaluated as SiO_2 d a total of not more than 0.7% by weight of aluminium compounds and iron compounds evaluated as Al_2O_3 and Fe_2O_3	0
ex 29.02 AIII	1,2-Dibromoethane	0
ex 29.03 BII	1-Nitropropane	8
ex 29.03 BII	2-Nitropropane	8
ex 29.08 AIIIc)	Sodium 4-(2-methylallyloxy)benzenesulphonate	0
ex 29.34 B	Dimethyltin dichloride	0
ex 29.42 CVII	Alkaloids of ergot of rye and their salts, ethers, esters and other derivatives, other than lysergic acid	6
ex 29.44 A	Epicillin (INN)	0
ex 29.44.C	Cefazolin (INN) and its salts	0
ex 38.19 G	Catalysts consisting of copper chloride supported on aluminium oxide for the preparation of dichloroethane from ethylene, hydrochloric acid and oxygen	0
ex 39.01 A	Colestipol (INN) hydrochloride	0
ex 39.02 CXII	Copolymerisation products of acrylic and methacrylic esters in the form of film of a thickness not less than 50 and not more than 150 micrometres	0
62.03 AI	Sacks and bags, of a kind used for the packing of goods, used, of jute or of other textile bast fibres of heading no. 57.03	4
ex 85.21 DII	Digital displays consisting of a printed circuit board of a size not exceeding 30mm by 90mm with a single line of digits, not less than three in number comprising light-emitting diodes manufactured from gallium-based semi-conductor compounds mounted thereon; the line of digits having a protective cover of translucent plastic	0
ex 88.02 BIIc)	Flying machines of an unladen weight exceeding 15,000kg	0
ex 88.05 B	Visual display system generating images by computer intended for equipping flight simulators for civil aircraft	0

Termination of certain existing suspensions

As part of the review, the department also gives notice that France has requested termination from 1 January 1977 of the existing total suspension for:

ex 29.02 AIII 1,2-Dibromoethane

and of the existing partial suspensions for:

ex 29.03 BII 1-Nitropropane
ex 29.03 BII 2-Nitropropane

Interested parties who wish to make representations concerning these proposed terminations should send them in writing to the Department of Trade at the address shown above.

BOTB news

Export Year adviser in Wales

Roy Earnshaw, Export Year adviser (centre) pictured at the Gwent factory of Tucker Products Ltd. with Lawrence Kok, assistant marketing manager of Wiggins Teape (Singapore) Ltd., Tucker Products' agents. Tucker Products, who manufacture a wide range of stationery items, were one of the first firms in South Wales to join Export Year.

Development opportunities for exporters: free booklet

'The International Lending Agencies' is the title of a new Department of Trade booklet for manufacturers and consultants. It provides a guide to the many international lending agencies providing finance for development projects throughout the world.

Britain recently became a member of two of these agencies – the Inter-American Development Bank and the European Development Fund.

Articles describing what membership of these agencies means for British exporters appeared in the 9 July (page 102) and 30 July (page 324) issues of *Trade and Industry*.

Copies of 'The International Lending Agencies' can be obtained by sending a self-addressed, adhesive label to: Department of Trade, Projects Subsection, Room J.33, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

Dundee and Tayside Chamber to visit Iran

Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry is sponsoring a BOTB-supported outward trade mission to Iran from 19-24 February, next year. The number of places available will be limited to 15.

The mission will be based in Tehran and will qualify for a subsidy of £200 per participating company. Members will be required to spend at least two-thirds of the period in Iran in order to qualify for the subsidy.

Further information from Miss L. Dodds, assistant secretary, export promotion, Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chamber of Commerce Buildings, Panmure Street, Dundee DD1 1ED, tel. Dundee 22122.

EXPORT YEAR

Over 500 companies are already taking part in Export Year. But there is still plenty of time to join them. Write to or phone the Export Year Office, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 0ET. Tel. 01-215 5180/3393/5773.

Excellent investment opportunities in Philippines

Members of a Merseyside Chamber of Commerce mission to the Philippines (left to right) mission leader Robin Christie, Mr. J. A. Quisumbing, commercial officer, and mission co-ordinator David Parfitt pictured with the Secretary of Trade for the Philippines, Mr. T. Troadio Quiazon Jr. Mr. Parfitt explained afterwards that the Merseyside tour had been highly successful. Good business had been obtained by the 16 firms taking part, new contacts established for agency and distribution arrangements and the opportunities and incentives for investment and joint ventures were excellent.

UK businessmen going overseas

British businessmen intending to travel overseas are urged in their own interests to make the earliest possible contact, before going abroad, with the Export Services and Promotions Division of the Department of Trade (at the appropriate Regional Office for firms outside London, and Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU for firms in London and the South East of England). The department, in co-operation with commercial officers at Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates overseas, is in a position to provide advice when it is required, and to help, where appropriate, in making trade contacts related to the purpose of the visit. Even where a businessman does not require specific assistance it is valuable for him to meet the commercial officers to get up-to-date information about the market. The Department of Trade would therefore welcome receiving notification of any businessmen intending to travel overseas. To enable the overseas commercial officers to be of the greatest assistance to UK visitors the department needs to be able to brief the overseas officers as fully as possible. The range of information required for this purpose includes details of the firm, their products/services and the purpose and background to the visit.

NB

What chance does your product stand in the Dutch market?

Not sure? Then ask us to find out. We can conduct a survey on your behalf and establish what the existing market is, its size, concentration and outlets, and the potential within the market for your product. We will also monitor competition, compare prices, and locate the best media for your purpose.

There are many other services available to assist those who trade with The Netherlands.

Contact: Mr. Alabaster. Tel: 01-405 1358
THE NETHERLANDS-BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
307 HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON WC1V 7LS
Manchester office Tel: 061-834 5674

ENCIRCLE TI 164 ON PAGE 486 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Leipzig Fair

German Democratic Republic 5.-12.9. 1976

For today and tomorrow . . .

. . . Leipzig Fair offers Information, Contacts, Trade. Plus new technology and up-to-the minute consumer goods from all over the world. High spots in major product groups are the special displays "Advanced Textile Technology", "Plastics Machinery", "Agricultural Chemicals", "Synthetic Fibres" and "Ready-to-Wear Clothing".
Scientific conferences, technical lectures and consultancy services for specialist visitors from 100 countries.

Leipzig has something for you.

Reserved accommodation bookable in the UK. Direct flights by British Airways. Inclusive arrangements and Rent-a-Car facilities. Further information from Leipzig Fair Agency, Dept. TI, 19 Dover Street, London W1X 3PB, Telephone 01-493 3111.

ENCIRCLE TI 162 ON PAGE 486 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Trade Information

ECGD cover improved for contracts expressed in foreign currency

In a written answer to a parliamentary question on 4 August, Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, announced that the Export Credits Guarantee Department would improve the cover afforded for contracts which are expressed in certain major foreign currencies and supported by use of the forward exchange market or foreign borrowing.

Until now an exporter who has protected himself against exchange rate changes by use of the forward exchange market or foreign borrowing against the expected receipt of foreign currency could suffer additional loss in meeting these currency obligations if he did not receive payment from overseas. This loss would not have been covered by ECGD: until now under ECGD comprehensive guarantees, claims have been paid by ECGD at the rate of exchange ruling at the time ECGD cover commenced. But from 1 October cover will be related to the rate obtaining at the time the loss is incurred, if this is more favourable to the exporter.

For business on credit terms up to six months, ECGD will consider paying up to 10 per cent more than it would otherwise have paid on a valid claim provided an exporter has suffered extra loss as defined above.

For business in excess of six months, where ECGD covers separate contracts, policyholders who want this new cover will be asked to select any percentage of additional liability they wish, subject to additional premium.

For larger contracts covered by individual ECGD guarantees, cover will be available against the same type of risk, but without a specific margin, on payment of additional premium.

ECGD's total commitments are subject to a statutory limit in sterling and so, in the event of a claim under the last type of cover mentioned, ECGD will obtain from the exchange equalisation account either the necessary foreign currency or any additional sterling that may be required as a result of exchange rate changes since the date of the guarantee.

The involvement of the exchange equalisation account is temporary, until ECGD's powers can be amended.

The earliest possible operative date for the new arrangements is 1 October because of the necessary documentation and the need to inform the 10,000 holders of ECGD comprehensive guarantees. Policyholders will be sent the details by mid-September. Although the new cover will not be effective until 1 October, ECGD will discuss large capital goods contract cases now.

Notices to Importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH.

No. 1570: Imports of cotton yarn and woven cotton and polyester/cotton textiles from the Republic of Korea

Notice to Importers No. 1527, see *Trade and Industry*, 12 December 1975, page 726, stated that a further notice would be published about the arrangements for licensing those goods not covered by the EEC/Korean Agreement.

These remaining restrictions are being phased out by 31 March 1977 in accordance with Article 2 of the Gatt Multifibres arrangement (MFA). The quota level for the period 1 January 1976 to 31 March 1977 is 100,000 sq. yds, and covers the items set out in the accompanying table.

Since the quota has already been fully taken up, no further import licences will be issued during the quota period for goods shown above originating in the Republic of Korea. Holders of existing import licences may however continue to use them until their period of validity expires.

Note

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch 01-603 4644 ext. 311.

Tariff heading	Description
55.05	Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale
55.06	Cotton yarn, put up for retail sale
ex 55.08, ex 59.13	Cotton fabric
ex 58.04	Woven pile or chenille fabric of cotton or polyester/cotton
ex 61.05	Handkerchiefs of woven cotton or polyester/cotton
ex 61.06	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like, of woven cotton or polyester/cotton
ex 62.05	Other made-up textile articles of woven cotton or polyester/cotton

Patent and trade mark laws in Gilbert Islands and Tuvalu

The UK Designs (Protection) Ordinance 1937 continues to operate in the Gilbert Islands and therefore designs registered in the UK continue to be automatically protected (see 14 May 1976 issue of *Trade and Industry*, page 441). This will not be the case in Tuvalu. In Tuvalu, design registrations made prior to separation are valid only so long as the present terms permit. Any design registration made or renewed after 1 October 1975 is valid only in the Gilbert Islands.

Separate registrations are necessary for Tuvalu.

All patent and trade mark registrations made prior to the separation of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands are regarded as Gilbert Islands registrations.

Registrations in existence at the time of separation are valid in both the Gilbert Islands and Tuvalu until renewal, when separate registrations are necessary.

New trade mark law for Malaysia

A unified trade mark law for Malaysia came into effect on 24 June 1976, replacing the existing Malayan Trade Mark Ordinance of 1950 and the corresponding Trade Mark Ordinances of Sabah and Sarawak.

The Trade Marks Act 1976 (Laws of Malaysia, Act 175) provides the same general protection as the ordinances it replaces.

The act provides for a central trade marks office in Kuala Lumpur with regional trade mark offices in Sabah and Sarawak. Documents may be filed under the act at either the central office or regional offices.

The previous registers of trademarks in the three component regions are to be incorporated into a single new register which will continue to be divided into part A and part B.

A registered mark entered on all three previous registers and owned by the same proprietor will be deemed to be a registered trade mark in his name under the new act. An existing mark registered in one or two of the component regions may also be deemed to be a registered mark under the new act if no identical or nearly resembling mark appears on the register or is the subject of an application made before the act entered into force in the other component region(s).

When different proprietors own a trade mark registered in different component regions, both or all three marks may be included in the new register, but in this case the court or the registrar may impose such conditions, amendments, modifications or limitations as it may think right.

British proprietors of marks registered in the component regions of Malaysia are urged to ensure that their rights are established under this new law.

A copy of the new law is available for inspection in the Chancery House Annexe of the Science Reference Library (Holborn Division), Chancery House, Lower Ground Floor, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AY.

British overhead cable system for Australia

Queensland Railways have ordered a new type of British overhead cable catenary tensioning system – the second Australian railway authority to do so this year. The gas-hydraulic tensioning unit – this photograph shows a railway engineer fitting a unit on a British Rail line – automatically maintains a constant tension in overhead power supply lines of electrified railways and, unlike the normal weight and pulley systems, is not affected by temperature changes and complicated track layouts. The Public Transport Commission of New South Wales has already installed the system which is produced by the Aircraft and Industrial Hydraulics Division of Automotive Products Ltd., Liverpool, as have several European railways.

Applications for temporary exemption from import duty

An application for the temporary exemption from import duty of the material listed below is being considered by the Department of Trade. The move is being considered on the grounds that this material is not made in this country or the supply available is not substantial in view of existing UK demand.

Representations are invited from UK manufacturers who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the UK demand for this material, or who are interested in its future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury order in which the materials are specified and *will remain in operation until the date shown in column 4 below* or for such shorter period as may be justified.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to General Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a trade association, giving the reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption.

Representations should be received by 27 August.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
29.39	Androst-4-ene-3,17-dione	As in previous column	30 June 1977	G/T 15744

ECGD news

Romanian line of credit increased to £7m

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £5 million supplemental increase to the line of credit which Lloyds Bank Ltd. made available to the Romanian Bank for Foreign Trade in August 1975. Contracts placed under the original £2 million credit include compressors, turbines, gear cutting machines and rotary indexing machines.

UK exporters will receive 85 per cent of the contract price from the loan after shipment of the goods; the remaining 15 per cent is payable from the buyer's own resources. To qualify under the terms of the loan a contract must have a minimum value of £5,000 and be placed by 30 June 1978.

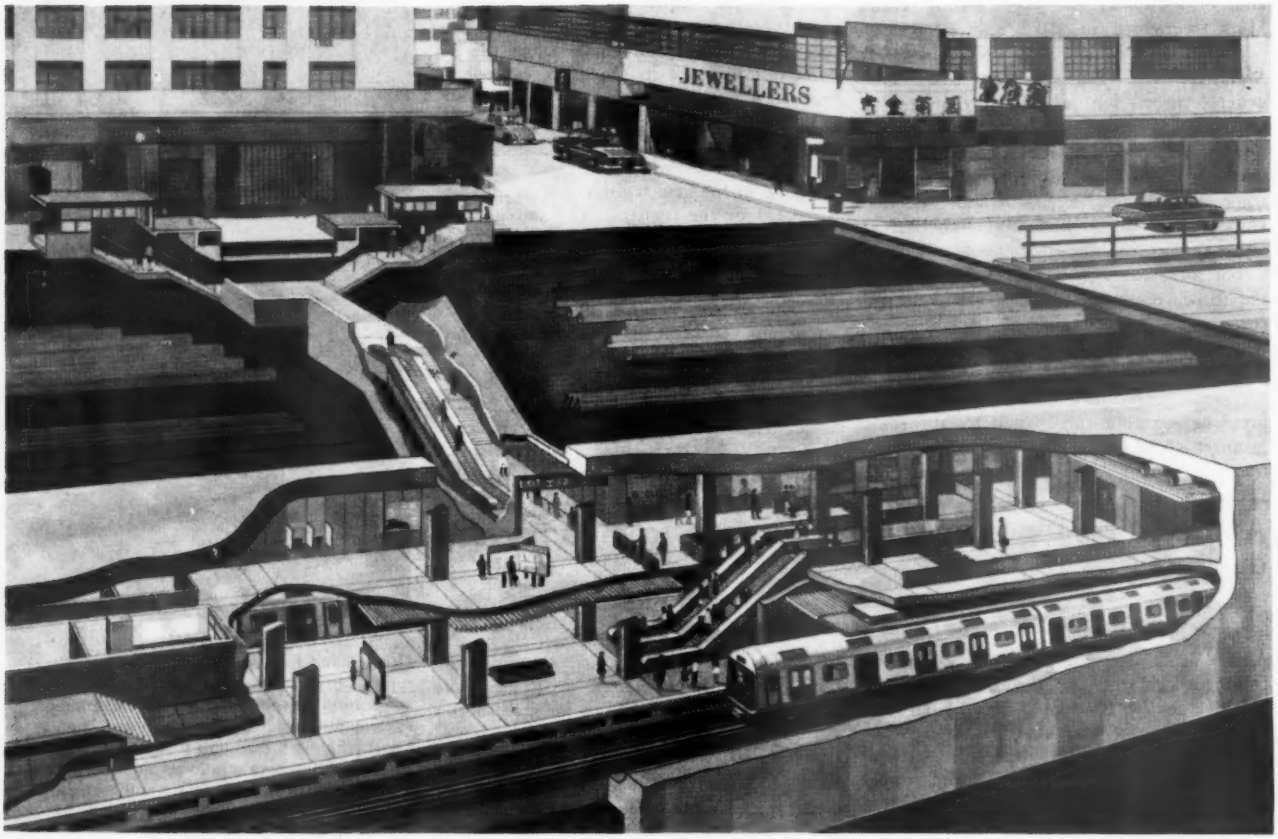
Exporters interested in further details of this facility should contact either Miss J. F. Broadley of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699 ext. 7575) or Mr. B. V. Last of Lloyds Bank (tel. 01-626 1500 ext. 3240).

Hints to business men booklets: Sweden

A revised edition of the booklet on Sweden has been published in the 'Hints to Business men' series. British business men who intend visiting this country on export business can obtain copies of the booklet from Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room D05, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7146, or any Regional Office of the Departments of Trade and Industry.

Advertisements are accepted for all booklets in the series which covers over 100 countries. Inquiries about advertising should be addressed to Cheiron Press Ltd., 8/10 Parkway, London NW1 7AD, tel. 01-267 1285.

British firms win major share of Hong Kong's mass transit scheme



British firms have won the lion's share of the contracts for building and equipping Hong Kong's first underground railway system. Almost all the major contracts for equipping and constructing the Modified Initial System of the railway have been let and those to British firms for civil engineering, electrical and mechanical work total almost £100 million.

Freeman Fox and Partners are consulting engineers for the scheme; a British consortium led by the J. L. Kier Group have won two important civil engineering contracts; Metro-Cammell, the Birmingham-based subsidiary of the Laird Group, has won a £35 million contract to supply 140 rail cars with an option for a further 70; Westinghouse Brake and Signal will supply signalling and control systems; GEC Traction will supply station and tunnel equipment; and Vickers will supply depot equipment. Henry Boot Construction, in association with a Hong Kong firm, will carry out all permanent way work on the new system.

The underground railway should be in operation by 1980. By the mid-1980s, with proposed extensions to the system, five interconnected lines will serve a population of 5½ million living or working within an area of 30 square miles. The number of daily trips expected to be made on the proposed system by the late 1980s is 2,707,000 with an average trip length of about 5km – making it possibly the most heavily used system of its kind in the world.

The idea of an underground system to relieve road congestion in Hong Kong was put forward in 1967 in the Mass Transport Study report. Two years later Freeman Fox and Partners, consulting engineers, of London were appointed to make the Mass Transit Further Studies report on the routes required, their cost and the revenues likely to be earned. Associated with Freeman Fox in the Further Studies were Kennedy and Donkin (electrical and mechanical engineering), Design Research Unit (industrial design and architecture), Charles Haswell and Partners (bored tunnels), Per Hall Associates (immersed tube tunnels across the harbour), Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick and Partners (soil investigations), Freeman Fox Wilbur Smith and Associates (passenger movements) and London Transport (specialist aspects of system management and organisation).

The study defined an 'Initial' system to cope with the most urgent traffic needs of the central area and which could be developed into the 'Preferred' or complete system, suitable for the estimated traffic in 1986.

The Preferred System comprises 48 stations and a total route length of 52.6km serving five lines.

Trains and stations will handle very large volumes of travellers. Each train will have seating accommodation for 384 and a crush load capacity of about 3,300 – some 2,900 standing. Each car will have five wide doors along each side and free movement will be possible between cars, which will be open-ended and connected with each other through very wide vestibules that will be always open. There will be no cross seats: the trains will be virtually full-width corridors so that passengers can move between the cars and uniformly distribute the load. Air conditioning will be installed in trains and stations.

Trains will be driven automatically. The operator will open and close the doors and the train will not start until the doors are closed. From then on the automatic driving system will perform all the accelerating, decelerating and braking functions required to take the train to the next station.

Left: Impression of typical station showing two-level box-construction with the concourse and booking hall below street level and the platform and trains at a lower level. Each station will have several entrances and exits.
(Courtesy of Freeman Fox and Partners)

Right: One of Metro-Cammell Ltd's cars for Hong Kong's mass transit system (artist's impression). All cars will be fully air-conditioned and will be capable of carrying up to 375 passengers.

Stations

Stations will be closely spaced, particularly in the central areas. The shallow depth of most of the stations will encourage quick and convenient access to trains. The fare collections system will be completely mechanised. Escalators, public address and closed circuit television systems will be used.

Most stations have been designed with a central island platform and great attention has been paid to segregating passenger movements to avoid opposing paths from entrances to ticket machines and the trains, and from trains to exits. The typical underground station in the central area will be built at two levels below the street with the concourse and the booking hall on the upper of the two levels and the platform and trains at the lower level. Some of the principal stations will have platforms at two lower levels and elsewhere to suit the location; other stations will have side platforms. In the central areas particularly, some of the station entrances will be located on the ground floors of office or apartment blocks or hotels.

MAJOR BRITISH CONTRACTS

Metro-Cammell Ltd.

Metro-Cammell Ltd. will provide the first batch of cars for the rail transit systems.

The overhead power supply is to be at 1,500V d.c. and all axles are to be motored. Cars are of two types: a driving car, 22,850 mm long, and an intermediate car 22,000 mm long. Trains will be made up in 4-, 6- and 8-car formations with driving cabs at the train ends.

The 3,000mm wide integral car body is of aluminium construction, with unpainted, linished exterior panels. All cars will be fully air-conditioned. Each car will have 48 longitudinal seats and a peak loading of 375 passengers.

A 4-car set will form the initial delivery and this will undergo a six-month test period in Hong Kong.

GEC Traction Limited

GEC Traction have secured some £6 million worth of fixed power and equipment business for the Hong Kong Metro. Constituent companies of the GEC traction have carried out complete electrification schemes and power equipment for consumer/mass transit systems throughout the world. The traction equipment to be provided for Hong Kong will give a normal top operating speed of 80km/h, with an acceleration of up to 1.3m/sec². Retardation of up to 1m/sec² will be achieved by rheostatic braking, blending with an air-operated tread brake for low speed operation.

Henry Boot Construction Ltd.

A £10 million contract for all permanent way work on the new underground system has been awarded to the Henry Boot Gammon Joint Venture, sponsored by Henry Boot Construction Ltd. of Dronfield in association with Gammon (Hong Kong) Ltd.

The contract, won against fierce international competition, includes the track bed; the provision and laying of rail track; points and crossings; ballast and all ancillary components associated with the track for the whole of the Modified Initial System.

There will be 32km of single track to be laid continuously supported on concrete

British firms win share of Hong Kong's mass transit scheme *continued*

plinths, 24km of which will be in tunnelled sections of the system and 8km on overhead concrete structures. In addition there will be 10km of ballasted/concrete sleeper track in sidings.

The contract also includes the establishment of a permanent way depot, the provision of all plant and equipment in the permanent way workshop and a rail welding plant.

The rail will be supplied by the British Steel Corporation; the points and crossings will be designed, manufactured and supplied by Henry Boot Engineering Ltd. The total benefit to United Kingdom suppliers is approaching £4 million in value, says Henry Boot.

Vickers Ltd.

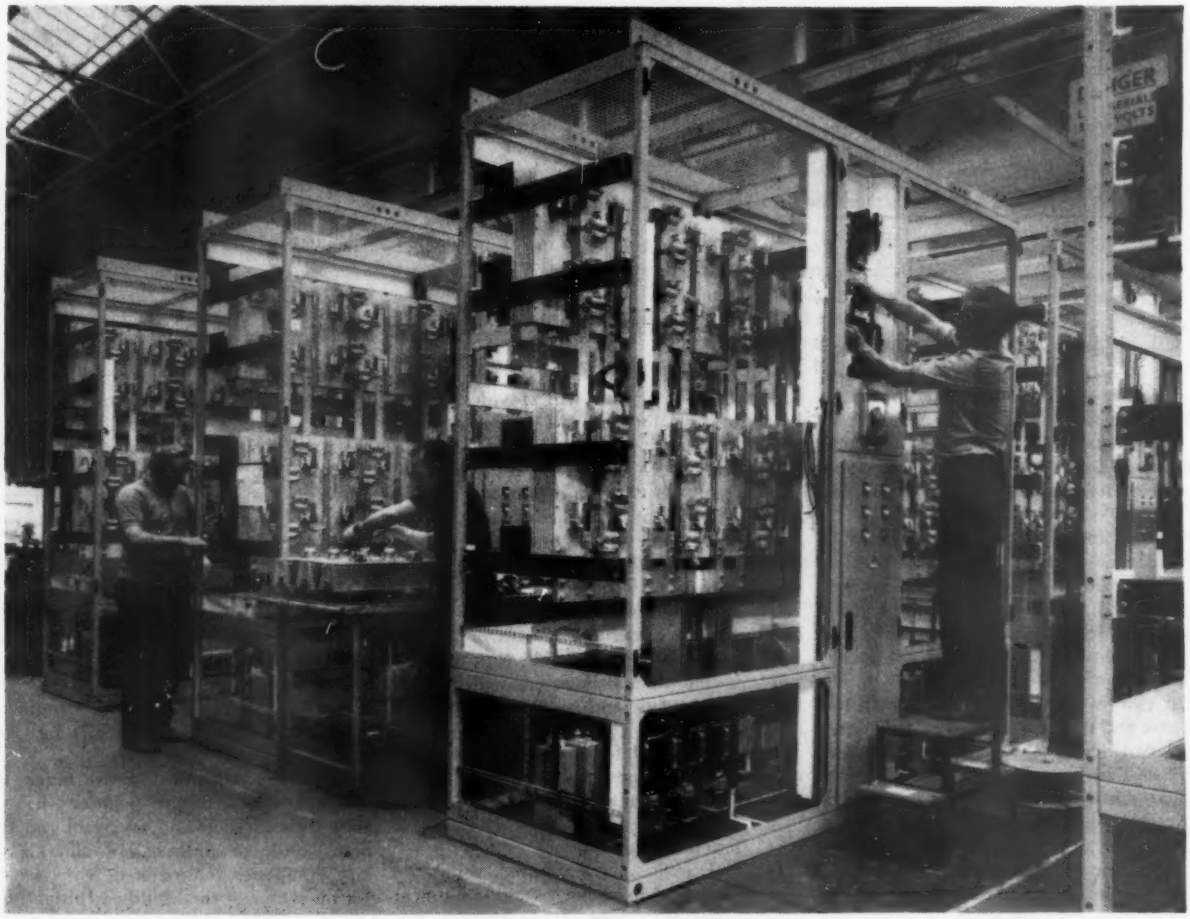
The order won by the Design and Projects Division of Vickers Ltd. at Swindon is for railway workshop maintenance equipment required by the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway Corporation at their new Kowloon Bay depot. Vickers will supply, install and commission a variety of rolling stock repair and maintenance equipment, train and component cleaning plant, and machine tools.

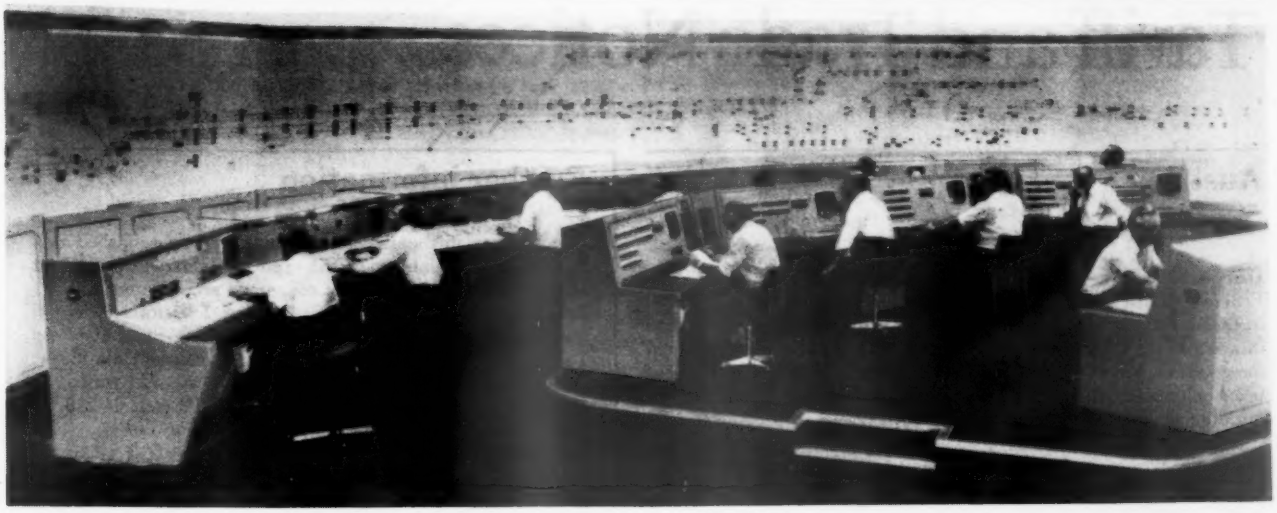
Among the wide range of equipment covered by the contract is a unique traverser/turntable for manoeuvring railcars through 180° in the course of their movement across the workshop.

In addition to general workshop machine tools and welding plant, there will be three

. . . and work goes on for Toronto Transit Commission

The final 1,500kw cubicles in course of construction at the works of GEC Rectifiers Ltd. Stafford, for the £750,000 contract for rectifiers and associated equipment for the new Spadia Line of the Toronto Transit Commission. The order covers 11 1,500kw and four 1,900kw rectifier equipments.





Typical Westinghouse M3 mosaic control panel and desk which will be used in Hong Kong to provide control and indications of normal signalling functions and control of train coasting programmes.

specially designed machine tools included in the equipment to be supplied. An under-floor wheel lathe is being provided where the rail-cars will be driven over a pit and the cutting of wheel profiles will be carried out on the cars in situ. A 400 tonne wheel press for forcing on and pulling off wheels from their shafts; and a special lathe for turning and under-cutting traction motor armatures are the other two machines in this category.

There will be eight cranes of varying capability for the general mechanical handling of rail-car components and assemblies, such as bogies.

In addition to manual non-destructive test equipment, further testing machinery will be supplied to check the rail-car motors, brakes and door mechanisms and subsequently carry out checks on the complete rail-car sets.

Included in the contract is a range of wet and dry cleaning plant for the electrical and mechanical components, and ovens for drying out the electrical equipment. This is necessary as 30 per cent of the railway system is above ground and the area is subject to excessive rain falls in the wet seasons.

Jigs and fixtures, frame handling facilities, together with compressed air plant, turntables for handling bogies and wheels, and lifting jacks to raise rail-car bodies to allow bogies to be repaired independently, are other items to be supplied by Vickers Ltd.

Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co. Ltd.

Westinghouse have secured some £7.5 million of contracts for signalling and control of the 15km Modified Initial System. This initial stage extends to 15 stations. Seventy two-car sets will be utilised to provide a 2-minute headway service with a capacity of up to 60,000 passengers/hour in each direction.

The entire system of Automatic Train Control (ATC) consists of three inter-dependent systems, each performing well defined functions within the overall scheme.

The Automatic Train Supervision (ATS) system provides supervision and control under normal circumstances from a central control room at Kowloon Bay, while local control under emergency conditions can be exercised at all stations. Dual Westinghouse remote control equipments will be provided with automatic changeover in the event of detected faults.

A Westinghouse style M3 mosaic diagram and control desk will be used to provide control and indications of normal signalling functions, and control of train coasting programmes. The indications will include Train Description, using the well-proven Westinghouse computer based Train Describer equipment, which will also be utilised for Automatic Train Reporting and Selected Train Recording functions.

Automatic Train Protection (ATP) is being provided by applying a coded carrier signal to the exit end of each track circuit, consisting of one of two carrier frequencies modulated by one of four codes. The coded carrier will supply information to the trains concerning the maximum safe speed for that track circuit plus an indication of target speed.

The particular code/carrier combination for each track circuit will be determined by the state of occupancy of tracks ahead, together with the interlocking requirements. The coded carrier will be transmitted via conventional jointed 50Hz track circuits using impedance bonds, the traction system being 1,500V d.c. with running rail return.

Automatic Train Operation (ATO) is the normal mode of service operation. It accomplishes automatically the regulation of train speed between stations with accurate station stopping, and enables short station to station running times with minimum headway to be achieved.

The digital ATO information transmitted to the train at strategic points will define stopping points, gradients and coasting rate. The ATO controller, acting on this and the target speed information from the ATP equipment will automatically drive the train by controlling the train motors and brakes to achieve the required target speed and to bring the train to an accurate stop in the station.

Westinghouse are also supplying Westcode analogue control electro-pneumatic brake equipment for the 70 'A' and 70 'C' cars. This equipment includes control of the brake through a pulse-width modulated train wire and the system is arranged in the energise-to-release mode. The equipment is designed to interface with the electrical dynamic brake and with the ATO equipment. The contract also includes the tread brake units for the bogies. One tread brake unit is provided for each wheel and includes an automatic slack adjuster.

The Automation and Controls Division of Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co. Ltd., are also supplying an electricity power control system for Hong Kong's new Mass Transit railway.

The system will provide centralised control and monitoring of 11kV power distribution and 33kV traction substations. Initially, up to 19 outstations will be supervised from a control centre at Kowloon Bay Depot with a capacity for 240 controls, 1,400 digital indications and 100 analogues.

Underground systems in Asia, South America and other areas

The longer-term importance of British successes in winning the major share of the electrical and mechanical and a major part of the civil engineering works for the Hong Kong Metro is that they place the firms concerned in a strong position to bid for contracts in connection with a number of other underground railway systems that are expected to be built shortly in Asia, South America and other parts of the world.

Test runs on the first section of the Hong Kong underground railway system, from Choi Hung to Shek Kip Mei, will start early in 1979, with the railway starting operations in the second half of that year. The whole of the 15.6km initial system should be in service early in 1980.

Tariff and Trade Notices

Austria

Duty-free quota for paper and paperboard exhausted. The Federal Ministry for Commerce, Trade and Industry has announced in BGBL no. 345 of 8 July 1976, that the duty-free quota established in accordance with protocol 1 of the EEC-Austria trade agreement for goods classified under heading 48.05 originating in the UK has been exhausted. Imports originating in the UK will therefore be dutiable as follows:

Heading no.	Description	Rate of duty
48.05	Paper and paperboard, corrugated (with or without flat surface sheets), creped, crinkled, embossed or perforated, in rolls or sheets:	
	A Parchment paper (pergamyn), embossed or stamped	9.5% with a maximum of AS 60.-
	B Other	9.5%

These duties will apply until 31 December or until the higher duties provided for in article 6 of protocol 1 are invoked. A new duty-free quota will be opened on 1 January 1977. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 459/461.

Brazil

Duty increase on chemicals. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,798, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 July 1976, raised the import duty on the following chemicals to 45 per cent for a period of one year:

Tariff no.	Product
29.08.31.00	Ethylene glycol ethers
29.08.32.00	Diethylene glycol ethers
29.08.34.00	Diethylene glycol
29.13.24.00	Methyl heptyl ketone
29.23.03.00	Monoethanolamine
29.23.04.00	Diethanolamine

This increase has a period of validity of one year and lapses on 13 July 1977. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty increases on magnetic tape. Customs policy council resolution nos. 2,796 and 2,797, both published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 July 1976, made the following increases in the import duty incident on unrecorded magnetic tape of tariff heading 92.12:

		Duty rate	
Tariff no.	Product	Previous	New
92.12.02.02	In rolls or spools, with a tape of a width of 6.35mm	30%	60%
92.12.02.03	In rolls or spools, with a tape of a width of 12.70mm	30%	60%
92.12.02.04	In rolls or spools, with tape of a width of 25.40mm	30%	60%
92.12.02.99	Perforated tape, suitable for the synchronised recording of sound, used in cinema and television	30%	60%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty reduction on dental mirrors. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,804, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 July 1976, reduced the duty on dentists' mirrors, of tariff heading 90.17.45.00, from 85 per cent to 45 per cent. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty increase on extrusion nozzles. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,795, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 July 1976, increased the import duty incident on 'nozzles for the extrusion of artificial or synthetic fibres', under tariff heading 84.38.12.00, from its previous rate of 20 per cent to 50 per cent. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty increase on mechanical conveyors. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,805, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 July 1976, increased the import duty incident on continuous mechanical conveyors, of tariff heading 84.22.14.00, from 45 per cent to 75 per cent for a period of two years. The increase will lapse on 13 July 1978. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Exemption of matrices from reference price. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,675 imposed reference prices on goods of tariff heading 82.05.01.00. Resolution no. 2,806, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 July 1976, exempted matrices, under that heading from the incidence of the reference price. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reduction in reference price on transistors. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,808, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 20 July 1976, reduced the reference price incident on transistors, of tariff heading 85.21.10.00 from its previous level of US$360.00 per 1,000 units to US$279.00 per 1,000 units cif. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Increased reference price on manganese dioxide. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,802, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 6 July 1976, increased the reference price incident on manganese dioxide, of tariff heading 28.22.03.00, from its previous rate of US$770.00 per tonne to US$1,085.00 per tonne cif. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reference price on bicycle free wheels. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,799, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 6 July 1976, imposed a reference price on bicycle free wheels, under tariff heading 87.12.02.01, of US$0.92 cif each. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty exemption on compound fertilisers. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,800, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 6 July 1976, exempted from duty 'compound fertilisers, impregnated in vegetable fibre, suitable for plant cuttings' under tariff heading 31.05.99.00. This concession is temporary and lapses on 6 July 1977. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reference price on pigments. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,788, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 28 June 1976, laid down reference prices on pigments based on ferrocyanides and ferri-

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exporters (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

cyanides of tariff heading 32.07.04.00. The price is US$2.50 cif per kilo. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reference prices on concrete drills. Customs policy council resolution no. 2787, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 28 June 1976, laid down reference prices for concrete drills with hardened metal points, under tariff heading no. 82.05.03.00. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reference prices on spiral drills. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,786, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 28 June 1976, revised the rates of reference prices on spiral drills of tariff headings 82.05.06.00 and 82.05.07.99. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reference prices on spanners for tubes. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,785, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 28 June 1976, revised the rates of the reference prices incident on spanners for tubes of tariff heading 82.03.03.00. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Temporary import duty reduction on garlic. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,784, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 28 June 1976, reduced the import duty on a quota of 12,000 tonnes of garlic, other than that in powder form, of tariff heading 07.01.04.00, from 145 per cent to 45 per cent. The concession is temporary and lapses on 31 December 1976. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty exemption on fertilisers. Customs policy council resolution no. 2,789, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 29 June 1976, exempted the following fertilisers from import duty, subject to the purchase of a proportion of domestically produced fertiliser in proportion to the amount to be imported. These proportions vary according to the region in which the fertilisers are to be imported. The fertilisers affected are:

Tariff no.	Goods
31.02.03.00	Ammonium sulphate
31.02.06.00	Urea
31.03.04.00	Superphosphates with a P_2O_5 content of up to 22%
31.03.05.00	Superphosphates with a P_2O_5 content of 22%-45%
31.03.06.00	Superphosphates with a P_2O_5 content of over 45%
31.05.01.00	Mono- and diammonium phosphates

Resolution 2,789 revokes and replaces resolution 2,714 which granted similar exemptions. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Chile

Temporary duty exoneration. Chilean Ministry of Finance Decree No. 613 published in the *Diario Oficial* on 21 July 1976 removes, until 31 December 1976, the rates of duty for the following items:

Tariff no.	Description	Previous *ad val.* cif rate
55.01.00.00	Cotton, not carded or combed	15%
55.02.00.00	Cotton linters	15%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

People's Republic of China

As a result of earthquakes in northern China on 28 July, Chinese commercial organisations in Peking have suspended normal business and British businessmen staying in Peking were advised to leave China for at least two weeks.

From 6 August until this situation changes, commercial representatives of the British embassy in Peking will operate from the British trade commission, Hong Kong, where they will be available to deal with routine inquiries about China trade. Correspondence should be addressed to the First Secretary (Commercial), British Embassy Peking, BTC Hong Kong. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5252/4322.

Colombia

Motor vehicles: tariff amendment. Decree No. 1413 of 8 July 1976 substitutes the text and duties of heading 87.02 of the customs tariff with the following:

Tariff no.	Description	Duty – *ad val* cif
87.02	Motor vehicles for the transport of persons, goods or materials (including sports motor vehicles, other than those of heading no. 87.09):	
01.00	For the transport of persons or mixed (passenger and goods), with a maximum of nine seats, including that of the driver:	
01	Open vehicles with four-wheel drive, maximum distance between the axles of 2,642mm, minimum height of floor transmission, 200mm, rear leaf springs, maximum load capacity of 575kg and without cabin or bonnet or with this of canvas	40%
02	Other open vehicles which do not have all the characteristics of the above	70%
99	Other	200%

The duty on taxi-type vehicles contained within sub-item 87.02.01.99 of the customs tariff, imported for the exclusive and permanent use as urban, intermunicipal and interdepartmental public service transport for passengers, shall remain at 20 per cent *ad valorem* provided that their ex-works fob value does not exceed US$2,000. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Temporary duty reductions: additions and period extension. *Trade and Industry*, 18 June 1976, announced temporary duty reductions on goods in a number of headings in chapter 84 to 5 per cent *ad valorem*, until 31 December 1976. Decree No. 1413 adds the following items to the goods covered by the temporary duty reduction: 84.11.02.01, 84.17.03.01, 84.18.02.31, 84.20.03.00 and 84.23.21.01. This decree also extends the temporary duty reduction period until 30 June 1977. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

British engineers carry out repairs in Kuwait

Two engineers from the Birmingham branch of electrical repair specialists Dowding and Mills Ltd. at work on-site in Kuwait rewinding an 1,800 hp steel cage motor on behalf of the Kuwait Oil Co.

Egypt

Increase in import duties. The following increases in import duty have been announced:

BN no.	Description	New rate %
22.03	Beer	
a	in containers of a capacity less than 1 litre	300
b	other	300
22.04	Grape must, in fermentation or with fermentation arrested otherwise than by the addition of alcohol	150
22.05	Wine of fresh grapes; grape must with fermentation arrested by the addition of alcohol	
a	wine	450
b	sparkling wine	1,000
c	other	450
22.06	Vermouths, and other wines of fresh grapes flavoured with aromatic extracts	1,000
22.07	Other fermented beverages (for example, cider, perry and mead)	1,000
22.08	Ethyl alcohol or neutral spirits, undenatured, of 80 degrees or higher; denatured spirits (including ethyl alcohol and neutral spirits) of any strength	
a	ethyl alcohol, undenatured, 80° or more	150
b	ethyl alcohol, denatured	150
22.09	Spirits (other than those of heading 22.08); liqueurs and other spirituous beverages; compound alcoholic preparations (known as 'concentrated extracts') for the manufacture of beverages	
a	ethyl alcohol, undenatured, of a strength less than 80°	150
b	spirituous beverages	
	1 spirits	1,000
	2 other	1,000
c	sweetened or aromatised beverages	1,000
d	other spirituous beverages	1,000
e	compound alcoholic preparations	1,000

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

France

Health certificates for fish and fish products. From 28 August 1976 health certificates will be required for all fish, shellfish, marine mammals, turtles and frogs, whether fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, dried, smoked or otherwise processed, when exported to France (see *Trade and Industry*, 30 April 1976, page 290).

There are two types of health certificate, one for fresh, chilled and frozen fish, etc., the other for salted, dried, smoked and processed products. These health certificates will be certified by the environmental health officers of district councils and/or port health officers of port health authorities. Exporters of fish and shellfish, etc., and of fish and shellfish products, are advised to contact their local environmental health or port health departments to register that they will require assistance, and to obtain details of the procedures to be followed. Inquiries: Fisheries Department, Room 259, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE, tel. 01-216 7523.

Ghana

Investment policy. *Trade and Industry* of 16 May 1975 (page 420) gave details of NRCD 329 – Investment Policy Decree 1975. The following amendment was published in the Ghana *Gazette* of 30 June 1976 and takes effect from that date:

INVESTMENT POLICY (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) DECREE 1976

The Investment Policy Decree, 1975 (NRCD 329) as amended is hereby further amended as follows:

a by the substitution for the date '30 June 1976' appearing in sections 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 9A, 10, 11, 12, 12A, 13 and 14 thereof, of the date '31 December 1976';

b by the substitution for the date '1 July 1976' or '1st day of July, 1976' appearing in section 19(1)(e) and section 40 (a) thereof, of the date '1 January 1977'

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064/3331.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Greece

Seed oils and oil seeds. The *Express* of 2 July 1976 reports that a total ban on the imports of seed oils and oil seeds took effect on 1 July 1976. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 439.

Japan

Toys: safety standards. Voluntary safety standards for toys are generally observed in Japan under a safety mark (ST) scheme which is administered by the Japan Toy Association.

Exporters who wish their products to be tested to ST standards should apply to the Japan Toy Association through their agent in Japan.

Details in English of the regulations and testing methods are available on loan to British Exporters.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 475/420.

Liberia

Used clothing: import prohibition. A notice published in *Trade and Industry* on 16 April 1976 (page 177) announced the lifting of the ban on the importation of used clothing. The Liberian Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Transportation has now announced a further ban with effect from 23 July 1976. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473/472/471/462.

Malaysia

Import control: cement. The Malaysian Government has passed the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) (Amendment) (No. 15) Order 1976 which amends the first schedule* to the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) Order 1973 as from 8 July 1976 by inserting in the appropriate place the heading number and all the details that follow:

(1) Heading no.	(2) Description of goods	(3) Country
25.23.100	White cement	All countries

* The first schedule lists goods prohibited from import in the the federation without an import licence.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

New Zealand

Budget 1976. On 29 July 1976 Mr. Muldoon, the New Zealand Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, presented the first formal budget of the third National Party Government. The main features (apart from domestic, social, security aspects) were as follows:

Agriculture

A new incentive scheme to encourage increased investment in livestock and in new farming plant and machinery. A continuation, in a modified form, of the fertiliser subsidy.

Marine resources

As an interim measure – pending permanent arrangements following the Law of the Sea Conference – all foreign fishing vessels calling at New Zealand ports will, as from 1 September 1976, be required to pay a tax ranging from NZ$1,000 to NZ$5,000 depending on size of vessel for visit.

Investment incentives for export

A range of new selective investment incentives designed to stimulate both manufactured exports and regional development. These include a 20 per cent investment allowance for new manufacturing plant and machinery which will contribute substantially to export promotion and is installed by businesses which have already achieved a significant export performance in goods qualifying for the increased exports taxation incentive, or which are planning substantial increases in production for export. An extension to 31 March 1980 of the terminating dates of all existing export incentives except the 'new markets' increased taxation incentive which already expires on 31 March 1981. In the meantime the present export incentives system will be up-dated.

Tourist development

To encourage tourism further, the special 150 per cent reduction from assessable income for tourist promotion expenditure which was due to expire on 31 March 1977 will be extended to 31 March 1980.

Energy

Introduction of an energy-pricing policy to reflect the increased value of New Zealand's indigenous resources. (Hitherto electricity, as an example, has been sold below true cost.)

Imposts

Sales tax is increased on marine engines, outboard motors, radios, television sets, record-players, loudspeakers, amplifiers, microphones, video and sound recorders and reproducers and parts and accessories.

Duties on tobacco products is increased by an average of 27 per cent increasing the price of a packet of 20 cigarettes by approx 7-8 cents and about 14 cents per 50 grams tobacco.

Excise and Customs duties on spirits are increased by 16 per cent. The average price of a 750ml bottle of whisky will rise by about 68 cents. Customs duties on imported beer will be increased by one-third.

A new 10 per cent sales tax on all machinery except that used in dairying, agriculture, farming, forestry and fisheries and certain essential public services. Provision will be made for a revision or remission of the tax where it can be shown that the machinery is used principally in the production of goods for export.

The introduction of a 10 per cent foreign travel tax on overseas fares to all destinations except the Pacific Islands. (This will have a greater deterrent effect on long distance travel, viz to the UK and continental Europe than to nearer destinations.)

An increase from 18 to 30 per cent in the maximum rate of tax for life insurance companies.

Present progressive company tax structure to be replaced by a single flat-rate company tax of 45 per cent for resident new Zealand companies and 50 per cent for others.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469 (duty and tax changes), and CRE 01-215 5321 (other inquiries).

Sales tax. The New Zealand minister of customs has announced that the following goods, if not exempt from sales tax, are from 30 July 1976 subject to sales tax at the rate of 10 per cent of their sale value.

1 All goods classified in Chapter 84 of the Customs Tariff, other than those specified in Parts A to E of the First Schedule to the Sales Tax Act 1974 (ie goods liable to a higher tax than the normal rate of 20 per cent), but not including any of the following:

a Engines for motor vehicles:
b Parts of motor vehicles and parts of motor vehicle engines:
c Automatic vending machines classified in heading 84.58 of the Customs Tariff.

Note: The goods referred to in paragraphs a to c above are liable to sales tax at the rate of 20 per cent.

2 Industrial and laboratory electric furnaces, ovens and induction and dielectric heating equipment, electric welding, brazing and soldering machines and apparatus and similar electric machines and apparatus for cutting, being all goods classified in heading 85.11 of the Customs Tariff.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

If you see things our way, New Zealand's a big place

When you know more about New Zealand's healthy and growing industries, potential markets and investment possibilities, you'll know what we mean. Call us, The National Bank of New Zealand, a member of the Lloyds Bank Group, for a wealth of information and experience, authoritative advice and first hand knowledge of the whole Pacific area.

The National Bank OF NEW ZEALAND LIMITED

London Office: 8 Moorgate, EC2R 6DB. Telephone: 01-606 8311

Branches throughout New Zealand and Representatives in Tokyo and Singapore.

ENCIRCLE TI 163 ON PAGE 486 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Nigeria

Import restriction – stockfish. The Federal Military Government has placed the importation of stockfish under licence as from 5 July 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473/472/471/462.

Promotion of Nigerian enterprises. A notice published in *Trade and Industry*, 16 March 1972 (page 467), gave details of the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree 1972 – Decree no. 4. The Nigerian Enterprises Promotion (Amendment) Decree 1976 – Decree no. 27 – published in the Federal Republic of Nigeria *Gazette* of 8 July 1976 amends Decree no. 4 as from 29 June 1976 as follows:

a for subsection (3) of section 1 there shall be substituted the following new subsection:
'3 The members of the Board shall be appointed by the Supreme Military Council and shall comprise:
a five Nigerians from outside the Public Services of the Federation or the States who shall be persons of proven integrity (one of whom shall be appointed as Chairman of the Board);
b a representative each of the following Federal Ministries, that is:
i Industries
ii Finance
iii Economic Development, and
iv Trade
who shall be persons of the rank of Deputy Secretary or above;
c the Secretary of the Capital Issues Commission;
d the Director of each of the Stock Exchanges in Nigeria, and
e the Secretary of the Board';
b in section 2(2) for the existing paragraph d there shall be substituted the following new paragraph:
'd six other persons to be appointed by the State Commissioner or State Commissioners, as the case may be, for trade and industries, and of the six persons, at least three shall be Nigerians from outside the Public Services of the Federation or the States who shall be persons with proven experience in commerce and industry.'; and
c immediately after the existing section 6 there shall be inserted the following new sections:
'6a 1 If the Board is satisfied that:
a an alien has been engaging in any of the enterprises specified in Schedule 1 to this Decree, not being an alien in respect of whom an exemption has been granted under section 9 of this Decree; or
b that an alien enterprise is being carried on in contravention of section 5 or any other provision of this Decree;
the Chairman of the Board may direct an inspector to seal up any premises in which the offending enterprise is being carried on.
2 Whenever an inspector has sealed up any premises he shall be deemed to have been duly directed to do so by the Chairman.
3 Every police officer shall if called upon by an inspector give all reasonable assistance to the inspector necessary to effect the sealing up of any affected premises and to prevent unauthorised persons from having access to or interfering with the premises or any goods contained therein.
4 Without prejudice to the generality of section 12 of this Decree, the Board may exercise any of the powers conferred upon it under that section in respect of any enterprises the premises relating to which have been sealed up under this section.
6b 1 Any inspector may in a court of competent jurisdiction prosecute an offender for an offence under this Decree.
2 It shall not be an objection to the competency of an inspector to give evidence as a witness in any prosecution for an offence under this Decree that the action is prosecuted or conducted by that inspector'.

EXPLANATORY NOTE
(This note does not form part of the above Decree but is intended to explain its general purport)
The Decree amends the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree 1972 to provide for the reconstitution of the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Board and to enlarge the powers of the Board to include power to seal up business premises of enterprises being carried on other than in compliance with the Decree.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064/3338.

Norway

Ban on advertising of alcoholic beverages. An article in the Norwegian press on 26 July warned that the final regulations enforcing a total ban on advertising of alcoholic beverages will come into force on 1 January 1977. It is expected that a deadline will be set for the removal of existing advertisements.

The official version of the regulations is unlikely to be available before the end of September. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Marking and labelling of textiles. New regulations on the marking and labelling of textile products are due to come into force on 1 January 1977 (see *Trade and Industry*, 31 October 1975 page 301). The Ministry of Administration and Consumption has recently made some amendments to these regulations and granted certain dispensations from them.

Copies of the regulations and details of the amendments and dispensations are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Pakistan

Documentation. Following a *Trade and Industry* notice of 23 July 1976, the Pakistan authorities have informed the British embassy in Islamabad that:

1 only the exporters commercial invoice is now required;
2 the certificate of value wording as on Form A is not now required to be typed on the commercial invoice;
3 the only requirement regarding country of origin is a declaration on the commercial invoice.

As notified in the earlier notice the Pakistan authorities confirm the temporary use of Combined Invoice and Certificate of Value and Origin forms A, B and C. Whilst there is no deadline, they now expect exporters to make every effort to meet the new requirements as quickly as possible and certainly by mid-September 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 420/475/7062.

Import Policy 1976/77. Because of printing difficulties, the Import Policy Order, effective from 1 July 1976, is not yet available. The British embassy in Islamabad has been informed, however, that the salient features of the new measures of liberalisation are:

1 The financial ceilings for the importation of machinery for balancing, modernisation and replacement are:

For cash: raised from Rs7.5 lakh* to Rs15 lakh.
For bilateral credits/loans and for barter: raised from Rs15 lakh to Rs20 lakh.

2 The 'Free List' has been extended from 389 to 407 items. The new items included, which were previously on the Tied List or not importable, are:

a Tools and workshop equipment
Steel belt lacing; shoe tack trimming machines; straight shank twist drills and parallel shank twist drills, excluding those sizes being manufactured in Pakistan; sandpaper, emery paper, glass paper and emery cloth in rolls.
b Industrial raw materials
Tallow; diagnostic substances and culture media for laboratory tests; palmyra fibre for manufacturing brushes; tamarind, chemical textile auxiliary products.
c Consumer items
Sanitary wares and enamelled bath tubs; electric lighting bulbs and tubes; earthen, china or porcelain tablewares; aluminium, enamelled iron wash-basins and sinks; nickel-cadmium cells (used in cameras and photographic equipment); dry battery cells; domestic air conditioners of all sizes; refrigerators and deep freezers of all sizes, domestic; razor sets and razor blades; tape recorders and cassette players.

'3 Raw materials previously importable by industrial consumers only, but now importable by all registered importers:
Aluminium sheets and plates; copper tubes and pipes; galvanised iron and steel sheets.

4 The facilities for importing lubricants and greases at present confined to industrial consumers only is, subject to recommendation by the Ministry of Fuel and Power, now extended to oil marketing companies.

* Rs1 lakh = Rs100,000 = approximately £5,714.

Import duties. As a result of the Budget an Import Duty Surcharge of 10 per cent cif is now levied on all items in the tariff except petroleum products, tea, certain machinery and those items currently free of import duty.

No further details available. Inquiries: specifying the relevant items preferably by BN number OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 420/475/7062.

Panama

Tariff changes on women's clothing. Notice no. 310, published on 2 August 1976, gave notice of 'modifications and additions to women's clothing'. Importers should understand that these amend-

ments are, in fact, modifications and additions to the Panamanian customs tariff. The percentages mentioned are *ad valorem* duties based on the fob value of the goods. The seventh and eighth headings given are new headings to the tariff and are as follows:

Tariff no.	Goods	Duty rate
841.03.35	Ladies three piece suits (trousers, blouse and jacket; skirt, blouse and jacket; trousers, skirt and blouse) with an fob value of US $23.75 or more	24%
841.03.36	Ladies two piece suits (skirt and blouse) with an fob value of US $12.25 or more	24%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Papua New Guinea

Currency revaluation. Papua New Guinea's Finance Minister, Julius Chan, announced on 25 July, the revaluation of the kina upwards by 5 per cent against the Australian dollar. Mr. Chan said the revaluation was in line with the hard currency strategy adopted when the kina was introduced on 19 April 1975. He explained that the decision reflected an improving trend in commodity markets, a strong balance of payments position and the prospect of rather more buoyant government revenue. A notice covering the introduction of the new currency was issued in *Trade and Industry* of 25 April 1975.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5321.

Portugal

Duty and surcharge exemption. The Portuguese *Diario da Republica* no. 168 of 20 July 1976 published decree-law 570/76, which grants exemption from import duty and the import surcharge for goods and equipment imported for the use of voluntary fire-fighting organisations. This includes exemption from sales tax for vehicles imported for such organisations.

Goods imported under this concession which are subsequently sold will be regarded as attempting to evade duty. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Singapore

Export of imported cigarettes. Following the notice in *Trade and Industry* of 31 May 1973 the Singapore Government has now published the Customs (Prohibition on Export of Imported Cigarettes) (Revocation) Notification 1976.

Accordingly the exportation from Singapore of brands of imported dutiable cigarettes which are also manufactured locally is no longer limited in proportion to those manufactured locally. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

South Africa

Import deposit scheme – further information. Notice no. R.137 published in South African *Government Gazette*, no. 5231 of 23 July 1976, gives the following exemptions to the scheme:

1 Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, bituminous substances and mineral waxes provided for in Chapter 27 of Schedule 1 to the Customs and Excise Act, 1964;

2 Certain goods entered in terms of Schedule 4 to the Customs and Excise Act, 1964;

3 Any goods the fob price of which exceeds R.10,000 and in respect of which there is at the time of entry furnished to the Controller of Customs and Excise a certificate issued by the Secretary for Industries declaring that such goods are essential capital goods or equipment required in connection with the carrying out of a development project for purposes other than replacement of existing goods or equipment;

4 Goods imported exclusively for re-export in their original form to a country other than Botswana, Lesotho or Swaziland.

5 Goods the fob price of which amounts to R.100 or less.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/462/472/473.

Spain

Pulp: duty-free import quota. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 30 July 1976, published royal decree 1816/1976 of the Ministry of Commerce establishing two duty-free quotas for the importation of pulp.

BN 47.01.A.3.a.2b – chemical pulp, sulphate of soda, bleached or semi-bleached with a content of alphacellulose not more than 88 per cent from conifers. Quota 80,000 tonnes.
BN 47.01.A.3.b.2b – chemical pulp, bisulphate, bleached or semi-bleached, with a content of alphacellulose not more than 88 per cent from conifers. Quota 20,000 tonnes.

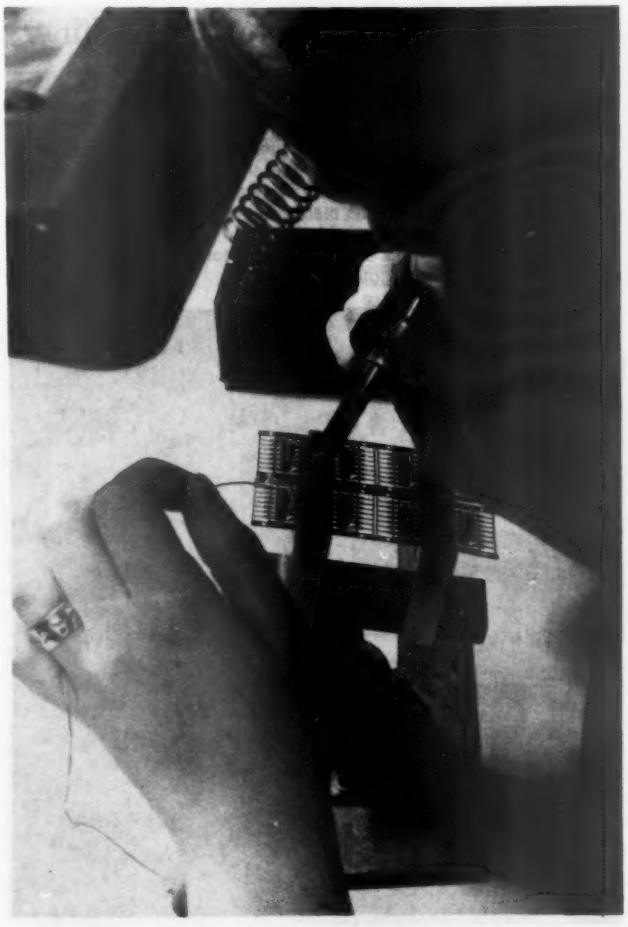
This decree is backdated to 10 April 1976 and will cover imports for licences under the above quotas from 10 April to 31 December 1976. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Coal: duty-free import quota. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 30 July 1976, published royal decree 1817/1976 of the Ministry of Commerce establishing a quota of 500,000 tonnes for the importation of coal (BN heading 27.01.A) for the production of electrical power and which will be free of import duty. The coal will be imported during a one-year period starting from 30 July 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Relays from Essex for Spain

Assembling Astralux Dynamics reed relays destined for use in the Spanish telecommunications industry. The relays form part of a £100,000 order recently placed through the company's Spanish agent, Nucleonic SA. The Astralux Dynamics factory at Brightlingsea, Essex, occupies 15,000 sq. ft and employs nearly 200 people.



CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

United States

Ultrasonic therapy and surgery products. The *Federal Register*, dated 14 June 1976, published proposed details of a performance standard on the above equipment.

Written comments (five copies) should be addressed to the Food and Drug Administration, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville MD 20852. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Thermally processed low acid foods. The *Federal Register*, dated 23 July 1976, published proposed rules dealing with good manufacturing practices for pickled, fermented and acidified foods, and would require a manufacturer to disclose methods of process.

Written comments (five copies) should be addressed to the Food and Drug Administration, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville MD 20852 by 21 September 1976. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Recall of food, drug and cosmetic products. The *Federal Register*, dated 30 June 1976, published rules proposed by the Food and Drug Administration dealing with the policies and procedures in the conduct of recalling violative products which are under the jurisdiction of the FDA. This will affect manufacturers and distributors. Comments (five copies) should be addressed to the Food and Drug Administration, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville MD 20852 by 30 August 1976. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Energy-using consumer products. The *Federal Register*, dated 27 July 1976, published proposed rules concerning the labelling of consumer products, including, among others, refrigerators, clothes washers and air conditioners.

Written comments should be sent to Commissioner of Customs, Regulations Division, Washington DC 20229 by 26 August 1976. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Generalised system of preferences. The *Federal Register* dated 23 July 1976 published details of articles which may be eligible for GSP treatment.

Written statements to International Trade Commission, 701 E. Street, NW, Washington DC 20436.

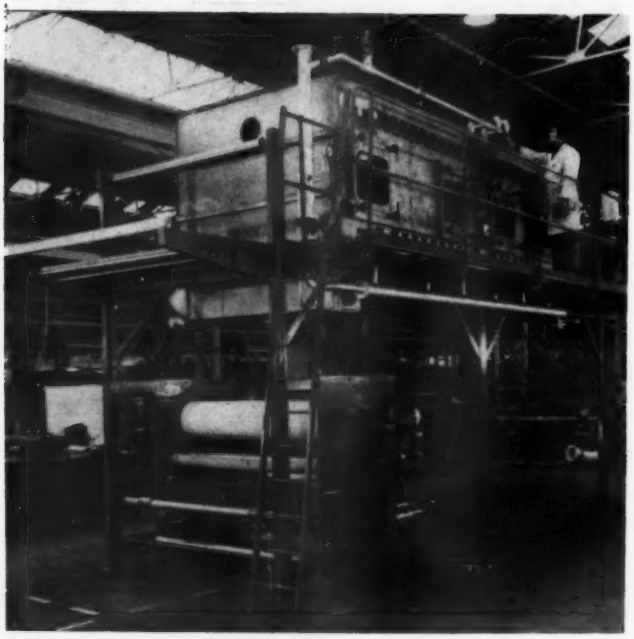
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Food colour amaranth (FD and C Red no. 2). The Food and Drug Administration has advised that any food, drug, or cosmetic arriving in the United States after 31 August 1976 will be presumed to have been manufactured after 12 February 1976 and will be detained if found to contain FD and C Red no. 2. Entry will be denied unless the FDA can be satisfied that the product was made prior to 12 February.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 455/456/7312.

Sudan order for £3.6m textile machinery

The Machinery Group of Mather and Platt Ltd., Manchester, has won a contract totalling £3.6 million for the supply of all the textile processing machinery to be used in a new textile bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing plant being built in the Sudan. Picture shows the inspection of a Mather and Platt two stage steamer prior to shipment. When completed, the plant will handle more than 40 million metres of fabric per year. Mather and Platt was also appointed to co-ordinate the activities of all the contractors involved in the project, which is costing a total of £5.6 million.



Venezuela

Vehicles: temporary duty exemptions. Decree no. 1,627 of 15 June 1976 adds tariff sub-item ex 87.02.02.99.02 – 'Passenger or mixed goods vehicles with more than 16 seats' – to the other vehicles temporarily exempted from the payment of customs duty (reported in *Trade and Industry* on 18 June 1976).

This benefit will not, however, cover the vehicles of sub-item 87.02.02.99.02 with 12-16 seats. Inquiries: 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Yugoslavia

Tariff headings. Item 378 in the Yugoslav *Official Gazette*, 26/1976 of 18 June 1976, states that goods classified under the following Yugoslav tariff headings require prior approval of the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Trade before they may be imported: 45.01, 45.02, 45.03, 45.04. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970											
Series in		£ million	£ million			£ million				£ million		
Stock level at end-1975						18,054	10,368	1,807	1,916			
1970	100	31,472	9,380	2,130	1,726	425	325	68	−30	735	−25	760
1971	102	32,396	9,544	1,991	1,801	70	−148	52	−10	1,058	280	778
1972	104	34,344	9,754	1,738	1,956	−18	−175	48	−11	131	−702	833
1973	110	35,894	10,008	1,864	2,114	1064	396	102	334	−842	−2,332	1,490
1974	110	35,521	9,805	2,087	1,959	597	666	81	−68	−3,611	−5,264	1,653
1975	108	35,413	9,768	1,809	1,716	−648	−386	−111	6	−1,700	−3,200	1,500
1973 4th qtr	109	8,958	2,513	476	545	205	96	32	51	−373	−950	577
1974 1st qtr	106	8,835	2,532	519	511	−176	−31	18	−59	−849	−1,297	448
2nd qtr.	110	8,789	2,339	513	487	295	191	43	27	−959	−1,366	407
3rd qtr.	112	8,905	2,418	516	485	373	368	3	−14	−852	−1,253	401
4th qtr.	111	8,992	2,516	539	476	105	139	17	−22	−951	−1,348	397
1975 1st qtr.	110	9,041	2,490	493	433	−176	−4	−31	−57	−466	−850	384
2nd qtr.	107	8,839	2,394	457	432	−254	−112	−54	−52	−360	−681	321
3rd qtr.	107	8,729	2,496	434	432	−156	−204	−29	60	−571	−986	415
4th qtr.	108	8,804	2,388	424	420	−62	−66	4	55	−303	−683	380
1976 1st qtr.	110	8,912	2.518	433	407	−47	16	15	−17	−60	−470	410
2nd qtr.		8,875 pe								−574	−964	390
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	+1.9	+1.4	+0.3	−3.8	−4.3							
on a year earlier	−1.2	−0.5	↓−2.0	−17.0	−9.0							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Export	Import
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices	monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis	
													at 1970 prices	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972				1970	1970
£m in base year			15,895										7,907	7,932
Series in				thousands						thousands		thousands		
1971	100.4	99 6	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	106.6	116.3
1973	110.2	110.8	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	121.8	133.9
1974	106.3	108.1	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5ø	2.6ø	302.2ø	130.1	135.2
1975	101.0	101.4	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.0	929.0	4.0	148.2ø	124.9	125.6
1974 2nd qtr.	107.8	109.6	107.8	105	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	577.4	2.5	318.4	134.0	137.5
3rd qtr.	108.1	110.0	111.2	107	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	613.7	2.6	308.7	133.4	136.4
4th qtr.	105.0	105.9	111.3	97	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	126.5	133.0
1975 1st qtr.	104.6	106.1	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	737.9	3.2	..	128.9	125.4
2nd qtr.	99.8	100.0	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4	122.6	122.2
3rd qtr.	99.3	99.5	105 5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.3	133.6	120.0	127.4
4th qtr.	100.5	100.1	105.8	84	144.2	25.3	256.1	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.9	113.6	128.3	127.2
1976 1st qtr.	101.4	101.7	107.3	106	149.4	22.5	266.5	206.9	205.5	1,223.2	5.2	115.5	132.1	123.8
2nd qtr.			106.7	106	154.9	16.0	292.6 p	214.4 p	211.6 p	1,246.5	5.3	119.6	137.3 p	134.7 p
1975 July	99.8	100.2	105.4	91	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.8	968.2	4.1	133.9	123.0	134.3
Aug.	98.1	98.3	104.8	98	139.3	26.9	241.4	193.5	185.6	997.4	4.3	135.9	115.2	124.9
Sept.	99.8	100.0	106.1	120	140.5	26.6	243.2	194.9	186.0	1,034.4	4.4	131.1	121.9	123.1
Oct.	100.9	100.7	104.8	85	142.5	25.9	252.3	197.0	187.5	1,088.7	4.7	118.9	130.5	128.9
Nov.	100.9	100.7	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.7	198.9	195.6	1,133.0	4.9	111.8	123.4	128.0
Dec.	99.6	98.8	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	259.5	201.5	198.2	1,174.6	5.0	110.1	130.9	124.7
1976 Jan.	101.0	102.0	109.8	115	147.9	23.4	261.5	204.8	202.1	1,210.5	5.2	111.1	131.9	125.8
Feb.	101.8	101.6	107.1	101	149.8	22.9	263.9	207.3	206.4	1,232.4	5.3	113.5	128.4	125.4
Mar.	101.5	101.4	105.5	101	150.6	21.2	274.2	208.6	207.9	1,226.6	5.3	122.0	136.1	120.3
Apr	102.0	102.2	108.5	118	153.5	18.9	286.3	211.5	209.3	1,233.7	5.3	123.9	136.5	131.1
May	103.1	104.2	105.7	112	155.2	15.4	292.0	214.8	210.6	1,250.0	5.4	120.6	138.3	136.9
June			106.1	88	156.0	13.8	299.6 p	217.0 p	214.9 p	1,255.7	5.4	114.3	137.1 p	136.1 p
July				90 p			301.2 p	219.8 p		1,294.0 p	5.5	119.6		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+1.4	+1.8	−0.6	−9.4	+3.7		+8.3	+3.9	+3.0	+2.9		−1.9	+4	+9
on a year earlier	+1.0	+1.2	−2.0	+4.7	+16.0		+29.9	+14.7	+20.0	+40.1		−21.0	+12	+10

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ø Average of 11 months

Manufacturing industry's capital expenditure by regions

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half the final digit shown	* five week period
p provisional	ø fifty-three week period

This article extends to the fourth quarter of 1975 the regional series of manufacturers' capital expenditure, first published in *Trade and Industry* on 27 February. The background to the figures, their coverage and weaknesses, were explained on that occasion and still apply.

Provisional regional data from the 1974 Annual Census of Production have now become available (see *Trade and Industry* 6 August 1976) and show some differences in the regional pattern of expenditure from the quarterly series. They would not be expected to correspond exactly for various reasons, the most important being that the 1974 Census results are based on the English standard regions as defined prior to the local government reorganisation which took effect on 1 April 1974 whereas all the quarterly series are based on the regions as now defined.

At the aggregated level of all manufacturing industries, differences between the Census and the quarterly series are fairly small and within the range of possible revision between provisional and final Census results. However, for the groups of industries distinguished in Table 2 of the original quarterly article, some of the differences are more significant. As it is impossible at present to separate out differences of the type mentioned above from those due to the firmer basis of the Census figures and thus to correct any regional biases in the results derived from the quarterly panel, it has been decided not to publish any further industry breakdowns until 1975 Census results for the new standard regions are available.

Results for the fourth quarter of 1975 show a similar pattern to that established in earlier quarters. There were small increases in the shares of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, matched by a reduction in the England share, mainly in the Yorkshire and Humberside region.

The figures for the year 1975 show substantial increases, compared with 1974, in the shares of Scotland and Wales and a reduction in the England share, particularly in 'England Rest', ie mainly outside the Assisted Areas, and in the North West region.

The analysis by asset shows that in 1975 'England Rest', Scotland and Northern Ireland had greater shares of UK new building work than of UK expenditure on plant, machinery and vehicles while the other English regions had the opposite pattern.

TABLE 1 Quarterly expenditure by all manufacturing industry

At current prices not seasonally adjusted

	Per cent of UK total								
	England								
Period	North	North West	Yorkshire and Humberside	Rest	Total	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	Total UK* £ million
1974 Year	10.5	14.2	11.2	46.5	82.4	9.3	6.1	2.2	3,242
1975 Year	13.3	12.6	12.6	41.5	80.0	10.5	7.8	1.7	3,591
1974 1st quarter	9.0	14.0	10.7	48.0	81.7	9.0	6.6	2.7	722
2nd quarter	10.6	15.1	10.4	47.0	83.1	9.4	5.2	2.3	723
3rd quarter	10.1	14.1	11.5	48.0	83.7	8.4	6.0	1.9	821
4th quarter	11.8	13.9	11.8	43.7	81.2	10.2	6.6	2.0	975
1975 1st quarter	12.4	13.9	12.1	41.6	80.0	9.5	8.7	1.8	877
2nd quarter	12.6	12.9	12.6	42.0	80.6	11.6	6.6	1.7	844
3rd quarter	14.0	12.1	13.5	41.2	80.8	10.2	7.5	1.5	892
4th quarter	14.0	11.6	12.4	41.4	79.4	10.6	8.2	1.8	979

* Corresponds with figures for manufacturing industry in Table 4 of regular article on capital expenditure in *Trade and Industry*.

TABLE 2 Analysis for years 1974-75 by asset

At current prices

			England								
			North	North West	Yorkshire and Humberside	Rest	Total	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	Total UK
1974	New building	£m	63	79	68	307	517	74	36	22	649
		(%UK)	(10)	(12)	(11)	(47)	(80)	(11)	(6)	(3)	(100)
	Plant, machinery and vehicles	£m	277	382	294	1,200	2,152	227	163	50	2,592
		(% UK)	(11)	(15)	(11)	(46)	(83)	(9)	(6)	(2)	(100)
	Total	£m	339	462	362	1,507	2,670	301	199	72	3,242
		(% UK)	(11)	(14)	(11)	(47)	(82)	(9)	(6)	(2)	(100)
1975	New building	£m	70	74	73	294	511	89	50	20	670
		(% UK)	(11)	(11)	(11)	(44)	(77)	(13)	(7)	(3)	(100)
	Plant, machinery and vehicles	£m	407	379	381	1,198	2,364	287	229	41	2,921
		(% UK)	(14)	(13)	(13)	(41)	(81)	(10)	(8)	(1)	(100)
	Total	£m	477	452	454	1,491	2,874	377	280	60	3,591
		(% UK)	(13)	(13)	(13)	(41)	(80)	(10)	(8)	(2)	(100)

Business Monitors

The following titles and issues of Business Monitors are now available:

Production series

Monthly at £2.22 each a year post free:

PM 423 Foam backing, foam laminating and fabric to fabric bonding for May 1976

Quarterly at 74p each a year post free:

PQ 232 Soft drinks for first quarter 1976
PQ 282 Mineral oil refining for first quarter 1976
PQ 411 Production of man-made fibres for first quarter 1976
PQ 444 Overalls and men's shirts, underwear, etc. for first quarter 1976
PQ 461.1 Refractory goods for first quarter 1976
PQ 472 Wooden furniture and upholstery for first quarter 1976
PQ 492 Plastics floor coverings, leathercloth, etc. for first quarter 1976

Miscellaneous series

Quarterly

M 6 Overseas travel and tourism for first quarter 1976

Business Monitors in the Production series and Miscellaneous series, and certain Monitors (Nos. SD 1 and SD 9) in the Service and Distributive series, are normally available by annual subscription from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Library at the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. 0633 56111, ext. 2973; telex 497121/497122 – Answer back BSO Newport), from which a complete list of the titles of Business Monitors is available on application. Back issues of the monthly and quarterly Monitors cost 30p a copy post free. Please send payment for all orders below £5. The annual Monitors are individually priced and the cost of these will be supplied on request. Exceptionally, copies can also be purchased over the counter at the Department's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

The Annual Census of Production Reports (the PA series of Monitors) and the 1971 Census of Distribution Reports (which are being published as Monitors SD 10 to SD 23, though not all are yet available) can be obtained on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, or can be purchased separately from the Government bookshops or through booksellers.

Regional development grant payments: amendment

The list published in last week's *Trade and Industry* (page 415) of companies which have received one or more payments of regional development grant of over £25,000 in the quarter ended 30 June 1976 omitted most companies in Scotland. The list of companies in Scotland is as follows. Notes to the full list are also shown.

Name of company	Location of premises	Grant £'000
SCOTLAND		
Babcock and Wilcox (Plant Leasing) Ltd.	Dumbarton	28
Babcock and Wilcox (Plant Leasing) Ltd.	Renfrew	49
Barclays Export and Finance Co. Ltd.	Grangemouth	453
Bass Charrington Ltd.	Glasgow	187
Bass Ltd. (Tennant Caledonian Breweries Ltd.)	Glasgow	116
Beecham Pharmaceuticals UK Division	Irvine	304
Borg-Warner Chemicals	Grangemouth	69
Bowater Packaging Ltd.	Glasgow	35
Bowmaker (Commercial) Ltd.	'S'	65
British Leyland UK Ltd.	Bathgate	179
British Steel Corporation	Cambuslang	41
British Steel Corporation	Motherwell	1,855
British Steel Corporation	'S'	388
Brownlee and Co. Ltd.	Montrose	28
Buchan Meat Producers Ltd.	Turriff	40
Busby Spinning Co. Ltd.	Kilwinning	41
Capital Leasing Ltd.	Dundee	35
Carron Co.	Falkirk	37
Caterpillar Tractor Co. Ltd.	Uddingston	59
Chrysler Scotland Ltd.	Paisley	62
Ciba-Geigy (UK) Ltd.	Paisley	906
Consolidated Pneumatic Tool Co. Ltd.	Aberdeen	41
CPC (UK) Ltd.	Paisley	25
Darngavill Brickworks Ltd.	Airdrie	45
Davidson Radcliffe Ltd.	Aberdeen	50
D. B. Marshall (Newbridge) Ltd.	Coatbridge	43
Devro Ltd.	Chryston	36
Dewramet Ltd.	Glasgow	27
Distillers Co. (Bottling Services) Ltd.	Leven	162
Distillers Co. (Yeast) Ltd.	Menstrie	28
FMC Corporation (UK) Ltd.	Dunfermline	47
Frigoscandia Ltd.	Bellshill	127
George Outram and Co. Ltd.	Glasgow	45
Gestetner Papers Ltd.	Alloa	66
Giddings and Lewis-Fraser Ltd.	Arbroath	61
Govan Shipbuilders Ltd.	Glasgow	344
Hiram Walker and Sons (Scotland) Ltd.	Dumbarton	268
Hiram Walker and Sons (Scotland) Ltd.	Dumbarton	92
Holmes McDougall Ltd.	Edinburgh	41
Hoover Ltd.	Cambuslang	357
Hyster Ltd.	Irvine	26
I. and H. Brown (Plant) Ltd.	'S'	26
IBM UK Ltd.	Greenock	71
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Dumfries	133
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Grangemouth	519
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Stevenston	145
Imperial Group Ltd.	Glasgow	28
Imperial Group Ltd.	Stevenston	26
International Distillers and Vintners Ltd.	Mulben	30
Inveresk Research International	Tranent	26
Inver House Distillers Ltd.	Airdrie	166
J. D. White Ltd.	'S'	97
John Walker and Sons Ltd.	Glasgow	300
Kockums Industries Ltd.	Glasgow	27
Lewis Offshore Ltd.	Stornoway	283
Livet Feed Products	Ballindalloch	240
Lloyds and Scottish Leasing Ltd.	Newhouse	92
Lloyds Leasing Ltd.	Glasgow	25
Long John International Ltd.	Glasgow	145
McDermott Scotland	Ardersier	82
Marconi Co. Ltd.	Dunfermline	25
Metal Box Co. Ltd.	Glasgow	45
Midland Montagu Leasing Ltd.	Kilmarnock	54
Moray Firth Maltings	Inverness	36
Motherwell Bridge Thermal Ltd.	Broxburn	49
National Coal Board	Alloa	27
National Coal Board	Auchinleck	29
National Coal Board	Coatbridge	26
National Coal Board	Kirkcaldy	25
National Coal Board	Ochiltree	221
National Semiconductor (UK) Ltd.	Greenock	42
NCR (Manufacturing) Ltd.	Dundee	52
Occidental of Britain Inc.	Orkney	2,456
Parsons Peebles Ltd.	Edinburgh	26
RB Leasing Co.	Alloa	40
RHM Bakeries (Scotland) Ltd.	Glasgow	39
R. J. McLeod (Contractors) Ltd.	'S'	41
Robert Kellie and Son Ltd.	Dundee	31
Roche Products Ltd.	Dalry	238
Rockware Glass Ltd.	Irvine	242
Sand Developments Ltd.	Bogside	60
Scottish Grain Distillers Ltd.	Glasgow	85
Scottish Malt Distillers Ltd.	Montrose	27
Scottish Stamping and Engineering Co. Ltd.	Ayr	101
Singer Co. (UK) Ltd.	Clydebank	57
Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons Ltd.	Toward	27
SKF (UK) Ltd.	Irvine	68
Strathleven Bonded Warehouses Ltd.	Dumbarton	52
Thickol Chemicals Ltd.	Forfar	62
Timex Corporation	Dundee	59
Tri-State Oil Tool (UK) Ltd.	Aberdeen	27
UG Glass Containers Ltd.	Alloa	83
Union Cold Storage Co. Ltd.	Glenrothes	52
United Biscuits Ltd.	Glasgow	39
Vetco Offshore Ltd.	Aberdeen	124
Whatlings Ltd.	'S'	34
Wiggins Teape Ltd.	Aberdeen	76
William Griffith (Plant) Ltd.	'S'	35
William Hollins and Co. Ltd.	Glasgow	68
Wimpey Asphalt Co. Ltd.	'S'	88
Wm. Collins Sons and Co. Ltd.	Bishopbriggs	153

1 'S' indicates use in more than one premises or sites in a development area.
2 Total of payments appearing in the list published in *Trade and Industry* dated 7 August together with additional payments listed above which were not previously published amounted to £54.9 million.
3 Total regional development grant paid in the quarter ended 30 June 1976 was £86.5 million.

Index of industrial production for Scotland: amendment

In the index of industrial production for Scotland published in last week's *Trade and Industry* the figure for all manufacturing industries in the fourth quarter of 1975 should read 106.9 and not 160.9.

The reserves in July

The UK official reserves rose by $58 million during July following accruals of foreign currency borrowing by the public sector under the exchange cover scheme of $326 million. At the end of July they stood at $5,370 million.

Office development permits in the second quarter of 1976

The Department of the Environment reports that the total floor area comprised in office development permits issued in the second quarter of 1976 was 3.2 million sq. ft compared with 4.4. million sq. ft in the second quarter of 1975 and a quarterly average of 3.5 million sq. ft for 1975 as a whole. Sixty-nine permits were issued in the second quarter of 1976, six less than in the corresponding quarter of 1975.

After deduction of relinquishments of existing offices and of floorspace covered by permits for the continuing use of existing offices included in the total figures, there was a potential addition to office space by way of new building and conversion of non-office premises to office use of 1.8 million sq. ft in the second quarter of 1976. This compares with 1.3 million sq. ft for the corresponding quarter of 1975 and a quarterly average of 1.9 million sq. ft for 1975 as a whole.

Fifteen of the 69 permits issued in the second quarter of 1976 were for office development in Central London and covered 1.0 million sq. ft; 23 covering 1.0 million sq. ft were for development in Greater London excluding the centre; and 19 covering 0.9 million sq. ft for development in the Metropolitan Region outside Greater London. Twelve permits for a total floorspace of 0.4 million sq. ft were issued in the part of the South East Planning Region lying outside the Metropolitan Region.

Tables showing office development permits since 1965 appeared in the 12 March 1976 issue of *Trade and Industry*.

TABLE 1 Office development permits – sub-division of South East Planning Region

	Central London			Rest of Greater London			Total Greater London		
		Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.	
	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished
1974	51	4,606	609	72	2,532	229	123	7,138	838
1975	64	4,883	448	106	5,414	442	170	10,297	890
1975 1st quarter	10	692	128	21	959	90	31	1,651	218
2nd quarter	25	2,586	202	21	934	37	46	3,520	239
3rd quarter	11	469	15	36	1,784	49	47	2,253	64
4th quarter	18	1,136	103	28	1,737	266	46	2,873	369
1976 1st quarter	19	1,682	449	20	687	67	39	2,369	516
2nd quarter	15	957	112	23	958	82	38	1,915	194

TABLE 1 Office development permits – sub-division of South East Planning Region *(continued)*

	Metropolitan Region (excluding Greater London)			Total Metropolitan Region			South East (excluding Metropolitan Region)			Total South East		
		Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.	
	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished
1974	62	3,222	329	185	10,360	1,167	41	1,550	93	226	11,910	1,260
1975	86	2,258	51	256	12,555	941	46	1,319	113	302	13,874	1,054
1975 1st quarter	14	382	26	45	2,033	244	17	437	84	62	2,470	328
2nd quarter	16	487	5	62	4,007	244	13	423	19	75	4,430	263
3rd quarter	32	871	—	79	3,124	64	8	283	7	87	3,407	71
4th quarter	24	518	20	70	3,391	389	8	176	3	78	3,567	392
1976 1st quarter	27	1,053	45	66	3,422	561	13	627	3	79	4,049	564
2nd quarter	19	871	6	57	2,786	200	12	408	—	69	3,194	200

Notes to tables

Application of Controls. Control was announced in November 1964 and applied to the Metropolitan Region (London and part of the South East Region) and Birmingham. In July 1966 control was extended to the whole South East and Midlands Regions and to East Anglia. In 1969 East Anglia and the rural Midlands were excluded and since 1970 control has remained in force only in the South East Region.

Modifications to Controls. On 1 June 1976 the exemption limit for permits throughout the South East Region was raised to 15,000 sq ft. Office development permits are not required for offices ancillary to industrial development covered by an appropriate industrial development certificate.

Definition of Areas.

CENTRAL LONDON – As defined in the General Register Office's 'Census 1961, County Report: London'.

METROPOLITAN REGION – From 1 January 1972, for statistical purposes only, the Outer Metropolitan sub-division (rest of Metropolitan Region) is as defined in the Regional Abstract of Statistics No. 7. Otherwise the Metropolitan Region is as defined in Section 85 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 as amended by article 13 of the Local Authorities etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 1974 (SI 1974 No. 482).

SOUTH EAST PLANNING REGION – From 1 January 1972, for statistical purposes only, the Outer South East sub-division (rest of South East Planning Region) is as defined in the Regional Abstract of Statistics No. 7. Otherwise the South East Planning Region corresponds to the standard region for statistical purposes as defined in the *Board of Trade Journal* of 31 December 1965, page 1567, as amended with effect from 18 July 1974 in accordance with the Control of Office Development (Designation of Areas) (Variation) Order 1974 (SI 1974 No. 1054) to correspond with the new standard region adjusted to take account of local government re-organisation.

Area Relinquished. Comprises office floor space relinquished for demolition or change of use to non-office uses.

Economic Trends

A monthly journal for those who want to follow the main trends of the economic situation in the United Kingdom. It brings together the main statistical series of employment, output, consumption, trade and finance, and each issue contains special feature article on some aspect of the statistics
Price £1.45 (*by post* £1.58½) Annual subscription £21.85 including postage.
Government publications can be bought from the Government Bookshops in London (post orders to PO Box 569, SE1 9NH). Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, or through booksellers

HMSO BOOKS

Provisional estimates of vehicle production and new car registrations in July

Tables 1 and 2 show United Kingdom vehicle production in the four weeks ending 24 July, as estimated from provisional returns supplied by the major manufacturers.

July car production at 90,000 units (22,500 per week) was 26 per cent above the number produced in July 1975. The cumulative total of cars produced in the first seven months of this year was 8 per cent above that in the corresponding period of 1975. Commercial vehicle output of 25,800 units (6,450 per week) was 10 per cent above the level in July 1975; in January to July as a whole, commercial vehicle output was 5 per cent below that of a year earlier.

Seasonally adjusted, July car output of 132,000 units was 25 per cent above the monthly average for 1975. Commercial vehicle output at 33,200 units was 5 per cent above the 1975 monthly average. Comparing the three months May to July with the preceding three-month period, car production rose by 1 per cent while commercial vehicle production fell by 1 per cent.

Table 3 shows provisional estimates of new car registrations. Seasonally adjusted, new car registrations in Great Britain in July are provisionally estimated at 90,000. In the three months May to June the average monthly level of registrations was 97,000, a fall of 10 per cent compared with the preceding three months.

Detailed figures for the period are due to be published in *Trade and Industry* on 20 August.

TABLE 1 Estimated UK production in July 1976

Thousands

	Cars		Commercial vehicles	
	Month	Weekly average	Month	Weekly average
Estimated output:				
1976 (4 weeks ended 24.7.76)	90.0	22.5	25.8	6.5
1975 (4 weeks ended 26.7.75)	71.6	17.9	23.5	5.9
Percentage change		+26		+10

TABLE 2 UK vehicle production: monthly averages (seasonally adjusted)

Thousands

	1975			1976					Average of		
	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	May	June	July	Feb./Apr. 1976	May/July 1976	% change
Cars	91	107	99	117	111	122	109	132	119	121	+1
Commercial vehicles	30.2	30.3	29.5	31.8	30.4	32.4	29.0	33.2	31.9	31.5	−1

TABLE 3 New car registrations

Thousands

	1975			1976					Average of		
	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	May	June	July	Feb./Apr. 1976	May/July 1976	% change
Recorded	96	108	69	115	110	118	95	55			
Seasonally adjusted	94	103	84	106	106	112	88	90	107	97	−10

Wholesale price indices in July

Output prices

The provisional price index for the home sales of manufactured products increased by 1½ per cent in July to 219.8 (1970=100).

The 1½ per cent increase in the provisional July index for manufactured products other than food, drink and tobacco reflects the normal quarterly pattern. Price increases were spread across all sectors.

The provisional price index for the food manufacturing sector rose by 1½ per cent, over half of which was accounted for by higher prices for animal and poultry foods and vegetable and animal oils and fats.

The increase in the index for all manufactured products measured over a twelve month period was 14¾ per cent for the third successive month.

Input prices

The provisional price index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry increased by ½ per cent in July to 301.2, the smallest increase since April 1975.

The index for materials purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries also increased by ½ per cent. Price increases for a range of products, notably non-ferrous metals, raw cotton and imported vegetable and animal oils, were partly offset by lower prices for a number of imported materials, including crude oil, which largely reflected the slightly improved exchange rate of sterling against major foreign currencies.

Higher prices for a range of imported materials, especially oils, oilseeds and oilcake, tea and wheat, were again responsible for the rise, of ½ per cent in July, in the index for materials purchased by the food manufacturing industries. Prices of home produced materials fell overall for the third successive month, the most notable reductions in July being for bacon pigs and meat.

1970 = 100

	May	June p	July p
Output prices (home sales)			
All manufactured products	214.8	217.0	219.8
Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries	222.4	224.2	227.6
Products of the food manufacturing industries	222.4	224.8	227.4
Prices of materials and fuel purchased			
By manufacturing industry	292.0	299.6	301.2
materials	298.5	306.8	308.4
coal, gas and electricity	230.6	230.9	232.0
By manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries	313.1	322.2	323.8
materials	324.8	335.2	336.9
By food manufacturing industries	245.4	249.6	250.9
materials	245.3	249.6	250.9

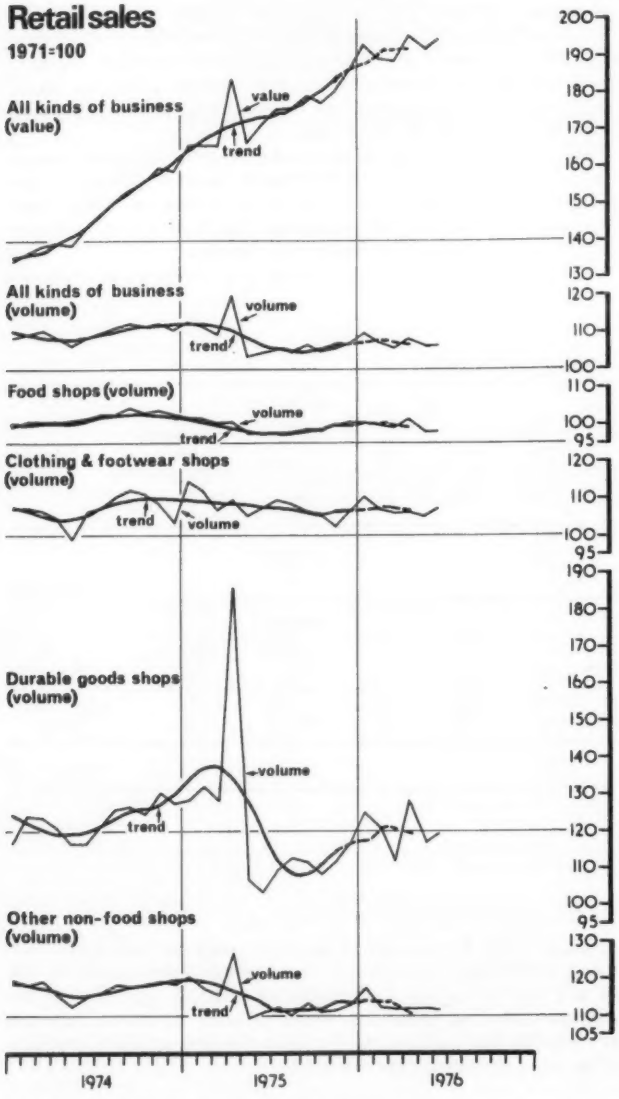
p = Provisional.

Note: Some of the input series have been revised as indicated in tables to be published in the full article next week.

Retail sales in June

Volume

The final seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in June is 106.1 (1971 = 100). This estimate shows a smaller recovery from the May level than was suggested by the provisional estimate of 107. Sales in May had dropped following the higher level in April



(†) Including department stores and mail order businesses.

The indices for all shops, food shops and total non-food shops are shown to the first decimal place to help interpretation, but should not be regarded as necessarily accurate to the final digit. The best indication of the recent trend is normally obtained by comparing the average index for the latest three months with the average for the immediately preceding three months but month to month fluctuations may sometimes make it preferable to average two or four months.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked • which are of five weeks. The June 1976 sales period was the five weeks from 30 May 1976 to 3 July 1976. The corresponding period in 1975 was the five weeks from 1 June 1975 to 5 July 1975.

The value estimates are compiled inclusive of VAT, and will, therefore, reflect changes in the rates of VAT. The volume estimates, however, are not affected by these changes since the retail price indices used to 'deflate' the value data are themselves inclusive of VAT.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. (See Technical Note in *Trade and Industry* of 14 March 1975.)

The press notice giving the *provisional* estimates of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales for July and the increase in the value of sales compared with a year earlier will be published later this month.

TABLE 1 Volume of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of sales per week (average 1971 prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates)	All kinds of business (15,895)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972	105.8	101.5	109.0	105	115	109
1973	110.7	101.0	117.7	109	127	118
1974	109.9	101.8	115.9	107	123	117
1975	107.9	99.3	114.2	108	121	115
1974 1st quarter	109.6	100.2	116.4	107	122	119
2nd quarter	107.8	101.1	112.6	104	118	115
3rd quarter	111.2	103.0	117.2	110	125	118
4th quarter	111.3	102.8	117.5	107	128	119
1975 1st quarter	111.3	101.1	118.6	111	129	118
2nd quarter	108.9	98.6	116.3	108	130	116
3rd quarter	105.5	97.9	111.0	108	111	112
4th quarter	105.8	99.4	110.4	105	112	112
1976 1st quarter	107.3	99.5	113.1	108	118	114
2nd quarter	106.7	99.3	112.1	106	121	112
1975 April	120.0	100.8	134.0	110	186	127
May	103.7	97.5	108.2	105	107	110
June •	104.1	97.7	108.7	108	103	111
July	105.4	97.7	111.0	110	109	112
August	104.8	97.5	110.2	109	113	110
September •	106 1	98.6	111.6	106	112	114
October	104.8	98.5	109.3	106	108	111
November	105.2	99.6	109.3	102	111	112
December •	107.0	100.1	112.1	107	117	113
1976 January	109.8	100.1	116.9	110	125	117
February	107.1	99.5	112.6	107	121	112
March •	105.5	98.9	110.4	106	112	112
April	108.5	101.4	113.6	106	128	112
May	105.7	98.3	111.1	105	117	112
June •	106.1	98.4	111.8	107	119	111
1976 Jan.-March.	107.3	99.5	113.1	108	118	114
April.-June.	106.7	99.3	112.1	106	121	112
Percentage increase	−0.6	−0.2	−0.9	−1	2	−2

TABLE 2 Value of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates)	All kinds of business (15,895)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972	112.0	108.9	114.2	112	118	114
1973	126.9	122.8	129.9	128	136	128
1974	146.7	144.5	148.2	149	143	150
1975	174.5	174.6	174.4	172	166	178
1974 1st quarter	136.6	134.6	138.1	139	134	139
2nd quarter	141.0	139.9	141.7	142	136	144
3rd quarter	150.9	147.9	153.1	157	147	154
4th quarter	158.2	155.7	160.0	159	155	162
1975 1st quarter	165.8	162.5	168.2	170	162	169
2nd quarter	173.7	172.3	174.8	168	177	177
3rd quarter	177.0	178.7	175.7	175	161	181
4th quarter	182.1	186.0	179.2	173	166	187
1976 1st quarter	190.2	192.9	188.3	183	176	195
2nd quarter	193.9	199.2	190.0	184	179	197
1975 April	183.9	170.4	193.8	170	236	189
May	166.9	171.1	163.8	163	151	169
June •	171.1	174.7	168.4	171	150	174
July	175.3	176.3	174.5	176	160	179
August	175.8	178.3	174.0	176	160	178
September •	179.2	180.9	177.9	173	162	186
October	177.8	181.0	175.5	173	158	183
November	180.8	185.9	177.1	168	165	186
December •	186.4	190.2	183.8	178	173	190
1976 January	193.2	191.5	194.4	185	185	202
February	189.6	193.7	186.7	182	179	192
March •	188.3	193.3	184.7	182	166	192
April	195.3	200.9	191.3	183	187	196
May	192.1	197.4	188.3	180	175	196
June •	194.2	199.4	190.4	188	175	197
1976 Jan.-March.	190.2	192.9	188.3	183	176	195
April.-June.	193.9	199.2	190.0	184	179	197
Percentage increase	1.9	3.3	0.9	1	2	1

which probably reflected the effects of the Budget measures. The fluctuations of recent months have been most marked in the sales by durable goods shops.

In the second quarter as a whole, the volume of sales was ½ per cent below that of the first quarter, bringing sales in the first half of 1976 to 1½ per cent above the level in the second half of 1975. However, the volume of sales in the first half of 1976 was still around 4 per cent below the average level reached in the fourth quarter of 1974 and the first quarter of 1975.

For the main components of total trade, sales by clothing and footwear shops fell by 1 per cent between the first and second quarters and sales by 'other non-food' shops fell by 2 per cent. Sales by durable goods shops increased by 2½ per cent, reflecting the effect of the Budget reduction in the rate of VAT. Sales by food shops were little changed.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the value of total retail sales in June was 13 per cent higher than in June 1975. In the first six months of 1976, the average value of sales was 13 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1975.

Hire purchase and other instalment credit business in June

Advances of new instalment credit in June by finance houses and retailers, at £291 million (seasonally adjusted), were about the same as in April and May. This brought total advances for the second quarter of the year to £873 million, 4 per cent more than in the first quarter. The increase between the two quarters was due to increased lending by finance houses, which was 12 per cent more than in the first quarter; advances by retailers fell slightly.

The average weekly value of retailers' instalment credit sales decreased slightly in June, mainly because of a lower level of sales by mail order houses and general stores. In the second quarter average sales by all retailers were slightly lower than in the first quarter. Durable goods shops sales decreased marginally between the two quarters, department stores sales were down by 14 per cent and other instalment credit retailers sales increased slightly.

The debt outstanding to retailers and finance houses continued to increase. Debt to finance houses increased by £19 million in June and by £59 million in the second quarter after little change in the first quarter. Debt to retailers increased by £7 million in June and £17 million in the second quarter, following a larger increase, of £33 million, in the first quarter. At the end of June the total amount outstanding to retailers and finance houses was £2,363 million (not seasonally adjusted), 4 per cent more than a year earlier.

TABLE 1 Hire-purchase and other instalment credit business seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Total		Finance houses†		Retailers‡	
	New credit extended	Change in debt	New credit extended	Change in debt	New credit extended	Change in debt
1971	2,053	240	990	165	1,063	75
1972	2,497	424	1,222	296	1,275	128
1973	2,871	438	1,453	332	1,418	106
1974	2,517	−155	1,037	−160	1,480	5
1975	2,987	−10	1,201	−55	1,786	45
1974 3rd quarter	651	−22	269	−32	382	10
4th quarter	678	−24	277	−33	401	9
1975 1st quarter	711	−9	286	−11	425	2
2nd quarter	759	14	309	−11	450	25
3rd quarter	748	−5	303	−17	445	12
4th quarter	769	−10	303	−16	466	6
1976 1st quarter	838	35	343	2	495	33
2nd quarter	873	76	385	59	488	17
1975 December	265	6	109	3	156	3
1976 January	282	13	111	−8	171	21
February	276	13	111	2	165	11
March	280	9	121	8	159	1
April	291	25	127	16	164	9
May	291	25 r	126	24 r	165	1
June	291	26	132	19	159	7
1976 Jan.-Mar.	838	35	343	2	495	33
Apr.-Jun.	873	76	385	59	488	17
Percentage increases	4		12		−1	
Debt outstanding at 31 December 1975 (unadjusted)	—	2,320	—	1,423	—	897

† Direct business only: ie excluding agreements block discounted with finance houses by retailers.

‡ Durable goods shops, department stores and 'other instalment credit retailers'. For further definitions see footnote to Table 2.

TABLE 2 Retailers' instalment credit sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1966 = 100

	Total†	Durable goods shops	Department stores	Other instalment credit retailers‡
HP and other instalment credit sales in 1966§				
£ million	(862)	(327)	(46)	(489)
1971	134	138	138	131
1972	158	162	157	155
1973	176	165	181	183
1974	184	132	193	217
1975	217	161	231	254
1974 3rd quarter	190	138	207	223
4th quarter	199	148	213	231
1975 1st quarter	207	153	228	241
2nd quarter	220	174	223	250
3rd quarter	217	157	229	257
4th quarter	226	163	242	267
1976 1st quarter	240	189	262	272
2nd quarter	238	187	226	273
1975 December*	226	169	241	262
1976 January	250	204	270	278
February	240	187	257	274
March*	232	180	260	265
April	240	188	200	279
May	241	185	229	280
June*	233	187	246	263
1976 Jan.-Mar. av.	240	189	262	272
Apr.-Jun. av.	238	187	226	273
Percentage increase	−1	−1	−14	1

† Durable goods shops, department stores and 'other instalment credit retailers'.

‡ General stores (other than department stores), general mail order houses and co-operative societies' non-durable goods departments.

§ Excluding sales against checks issued by other organisations.

The monthly periods for retailers consist of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The period covered by June 1976 sales was the five weeks from 30 May 1976 to 3 July 1976. The corresponding period in 1975 was from 1 June 1975 to 5 July 1975.

Government Publications in the West

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Wine Street, Bristol, BS1 2BQ

Acquisitions and mergers of industrial and commercial companies: second quarter 1976

The number of acquisitions of industrial and commercial companies was unchanged in the second quarter of 1976 compared with the previous quarter, though there was a rise in the total expenditure on acquisitions. The financial press reported 93 companies acquired for a total expenditure of £93 million in the quarter, compared with the same number of companies acquired for £71 million in the previous quarter. Table 1 shows that the figures for the second quarter of 1976 represent a continuation of the low level of acquisition activity that has been evident since the middle of 1974. An unusual feature in the second quarter of 1976, illustrated in the table, is that the value of sales of subsidiary companies between company groups exceeded expenditure on acquisitions of independent companies; this is the first time this has occurred at least since the beginning of 1969, when the data were first collected on the present basis.

The chart, which shows the number of companies acquired and the total expenditure each quarter since the beginning of 1969, shows that acquisition activity generally rose from the second quarter of 1971 until the end of 1972, reaching a peak in the fourth quarter of 1972 in terms of expenditure and in the first quarter of 1973 in terms of number of companies acquired. Activity then generally fell until the first quarter of 1975, when expenditure and the number of companies acquired both reached their lowest values since the beginning of 1969. Since the first quarter of 1975 the number of companies acquired has tended to recover slightly but the level of expenditure has remained low.

The largest acquisition during the second quarter of 1976 was that of Spectra Rentals acquired by Granada for £9.4 million. Table 2 shows that the 13 largest acquisitions (14 per cent of the total number) accounted for 68 per cent of total expenditure in the quarter, while the remaining 80 companies (86 per cent of the total number), which were each acquired for £2 million or less, accounted for 32 per cent of total expenditure. The average cost of acquisitions in the second quarter of 1976 was £1.0 million, compared with £0.8 million in the previous quarter and a quarterly average during 1975 of £0.9 million.

Table 3 shows that the proportion of total expenditure in the form of cash rose sharply in the second quarter of 1976, following a rise in the previous quarter, and that the proportion in the form of ordinary shares fell sharply. The proportion in the form of fixed interest securities remained very low. The proportion of total expenditure accounted for by each of these three methods of payment tends to vary considerably from quarter to quarter. However, the proportion in cash has tended to be high since the beginning of 1973, compared with earlier years, and the proportions in ordinary shares and in fixed interest securities have tended to be low. The proportion in fixed interest securities has generally been very low since the beginning of 1974.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 are taken from a more detailed analysis published in Business Monitor M7, Acquisitions and Mergers of Industrial and Commercial Companies (obtainable from HMSO each quarter for an annual subscription of 74p). The Business Monitor also contains tables analysing acquisitions and mergers by industry.

Notes

This analysis relates only to industrial and commercial companies in the United Kingdom and is based on reports in the financial press supplemented by special inquiries to companies to determine the form, value and timing of particular acquisitions. The Bank of England compiles an analysis of acquisitions and mergers relating to financial companies (banks, insurance companies, etc.) which is published in the *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin*.

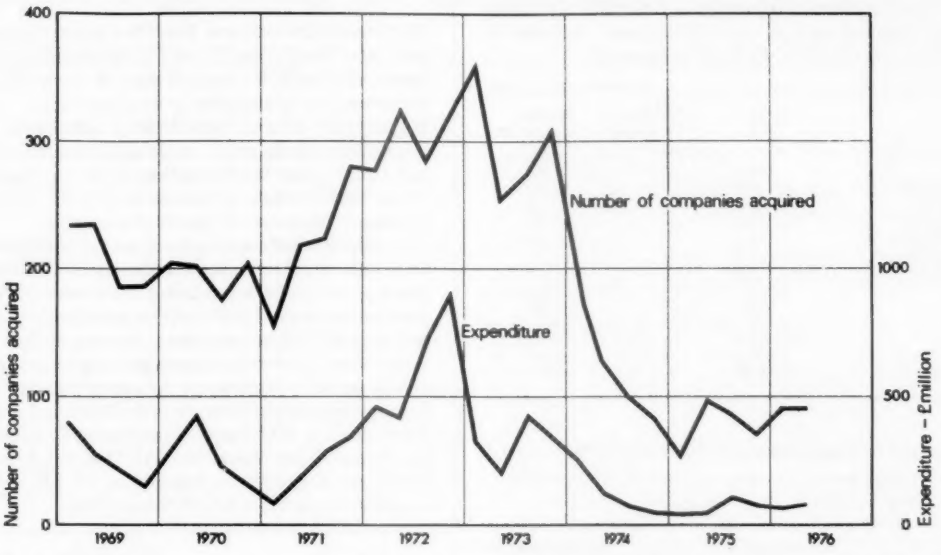
No method of valuing acquisitions is altogether free from objection. The values shown here relate in general to expenditure during the current period, excluding any previous investments in the company acquired. Where possible, the values are market values, ie the cash paid or the market price at date of issue of shares or loan stock issued. Where market values are not available (as in the case of unlisted securities) or the cash payment is not disclosed, acquisitions are in general valued at the net book value of the acquired company. When comparing the series over time one must allow for the considerable short-term fluctuations in share prices, in addition to allowing for the general inflation of values.

TABLE 1 Acquisitions and mergers within the United Kingdom

	Total all acquisitions and mergers			Acquisitions of independent companies and mergers: Total			Acquisitions of independent companies			Mergers†			Sales of subsidiaries between company groups		
	Number acquiring	Number acquired	Value £ million	Number acquiring	Number acquired	Value £ million	Number acquiring	Number acquired	Value £ million	Number acquiring	Number acquired	Value £ million	Number acquiring	Number acquired	Value £ million
1969	686	846	1,068.9	595	744	969.2	593	742	961.6	2	2	7.6	91	102	99.7
1970	629	793	1,122.5	490	614	996.6	484	608	954.1	6	6	42.5	139	179	125.9
1971	687	884	911.1	498	620	745.6	498	620	745.6	–	–	–	189	264	165.5
1972	928	1,210	2,531.6	716	938	2,346.2	710	931	2,336.9	6	7	9.3	212	272	185.4
1973	929	1,205	1,304.3	724	951	1,057.5	722	949	1,055.2	2	2	2.3	205	254	246.8
1974	427	504	508.4	307	367	459.1	306	366	451.6	1	1	7.5	120	137	49.3
1975	276	315	290.8	180	200	221.0	177	197	215.1	3	3	5.9	96	115	69.8
1973 1st quarter	258	362	323.7	195	278	280.4	195	278	280.4	–	–	–	63	84	43.3
2nd quarter	207	256	205.6	164	203	179.4	164	203	179.4	–	–	–	43	53	26.2
3rd quarter	215	276	431.7	175	226	299.7	173	224	297.4	2	2	2.3	40	50	132.0
4th quarter	249	311	343.3	190	244	298.0	190	244	298.0	–	–	–	59	67	45.3
1974 1st quarter	152	191	252.6	116	149	231.3	116	149	231.3	–	–	–	36	42	21.3
2nd quarter	105	128	129.8	68	83	118.1	68	83	118.1	–	–	–	37	45	11.7
3rd quarter	90	101	75.5	65	74	66.5	64	73	59.0	1	1	7.5	25	27	9.0
4th quarter	80	84	50.5	58	61	43.2	58	61	43.2	–	–	–	22	23	7.3
1975 1st quarter	50	56	47.1	35	37	38.4	34	36	36.9	1	1	1.5	15	19	8.7
2nd quarter	82	99	50.8	52	62	38.0	51	61	37.4	1	1	0.6	30	37	12.8
3rd quarter	81	88	111.9	50	55	77.5	50	55	77.5	–	–	–	31	33	34.4
4th quarter	63	72	81.0	43	46	67.1	42	45	63.3	1	1	3.8	20	26	13.9
1976 1st quarter	82	93	71.3	62	71	65.3	61	70	64.9	1	1	0.4	20	22	6.0
2nd quarter	81	93	93.3	49	55	44.3	49	55	44.3	—	—	—	32	38	49.0

† A merger (which takes place when two companies combine to form a new company) is reckoned as the acquisition of the smaller company by the larger and is valued at the market value of the smaller company's share of the newly formed company.

Acquisitions and mergers of industrial and commercial companies in the United Kingdom



Where the acquired company was a subsidiary of another United Kingdom company, the transaction is classified as a sale between company groups. Acquisitions between subsidiaries of the same company group, in the course of internal reorganisation, have been ignored.

As far as possible, acquisitions are recorded at the date when the transaction is finalised (eg when a bid is declared unconditional). This date usually comes before the date on which the shares in the acquired company are surrendered, although it may be considerably later than the date when the bid is first announced in the press.

TABLE 2 Size distribution of acquisitions within the United Kingdom

	1974		1975		1975 3rd qtr.		1975 4th qtr.		1976 1st qtr.		1976 2nd qtr.	
Expenditure (£ million)	Number acquired	Value £m	Number acquired	Value £m	Number acquired	Value £m	Number acquired	Value £m	Number acquired	Value £m	Number acquired	Value £m
Over 25	3	151.1	1	32.4	—	—	1	32.4	—	—	—	—
Over 5 and up to 25	16	142.5	12	100.6	7	65.9	1	6.5	3	32.4	4	30.9
Over 2 and up to 5	26	80.1	24	71.3	7	20.8	7	22.1	4	12.4	9	32.5
2 or less	459	134.7	278	86.5	74	25.2	63	20.0	86	26.5	80	29.9
Total	504	508.4	315	290.8	88	111.9	72	81.0	93	71.3	93	93.3

TABLE 3 Categories of expenditure on acquisitions and mergers within the United Kingdom

	Expenditure (£ million)				Percentage of expenditure		
	Total	Cash	Issues of ordinary shares	Issues of fixed interest securities	Cash	Issues of ordinary shares	Issues of fixed interest securities
1969	1,069	296	552	221	27.7	51.6	20.7
1970	1,122	251	596	275	22.4	53.1	24.5
1971	911	285	437	189	31.3	48.0	20.7
1972	2,532	493	1,459	580	19.5	57.6	22.9
1973	1,304	691	466	147	53.0	35.7	11.3
1974	508	347	114	47	68.3	22.4	9.3
1975	291	173	93	25	59.4	32.0	8.6
1973 1st quarter	323.7	120.7	157.4	45.6	37.3	48.6	14.1
2nd quarter	205.6	90.1	92.0	23.5	43.8	44.8	11.4
3rd quarter	431.7	310.5	100.5	20.7	72.0	23.2	4.8
4th quarter	343.3	169.4	116.4	57.4	49.3	33.9	16.8
1974 1st quarter	252.6	189.8	51.0	11.8	75.1	20.2	4.7
2nd quarter	129.8	68.9	27.3	33.6	53.1	21.0	25.9
3rd quarter	75.5	42.3	32.6	0.6	56.1	43.1	0.8
4th quarter	50.5	46.2	3.3	1.0	91.5	6.5	2.0
1975 1st quarter	47.1	38.7	7.1	1.3	82.2	15.0	2.8
2nd quarter	50.8	33.5	17.3	—	65.9	34.1	—
3rd quarter	111.9	64.4	24.0	23.5	57.6	21.4	21.0
4th quarter	81.0	36.2	44.6	0.2	44.7	55.1	0.2
1976 1st quarter	71.3	37.9	32.6	0.8	53.2	45.7	1.1
2nd quarter	93.3	83.1	9.5	0.7	89.1	10.2	0.7

New companies registered

Below are details of new companies registered in Great Britain during July 1976 showing nominal capital. The figures are exclusive of unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	3,253	—	3,253
Over £100 but under £1,000	69	—	69
£1,000 but under £10,000	1,025	—	1,025
£10,000 but under £50,000	464	—	464
£50,000 but under £100,000	60	—	60
£100,000 but under £1,000,000	75	—	75
£1,000,000 and over	8	—	8
Total number	4,954	—	4,954
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.
Total amount of nominal capital	58,659	—	58,659

Companies registered in Great Britain in 1975 and 1976.

	1975		1976	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.
January	3,648	18,631	3,476	21,780
February	3,442	22,886	4,088	19,228
March	3,478	22,419	6,190	41,680
April	4,944	24,352	4,150	22,354
May	4,245	42,314	4,343	25,095
June	3,465	20,856	5,624	25,815
July	3,752	26,703	4,954	58,659
August	3,267	47,668		
September	3,781	32,241		
October	3,879	25,224		
November	3,739	35,028		
December	3,450	27,881		
Total	45,090	346,203		

Detailed statistics of UK overseas trade

Each month the Overseas Trade Statistics give a considerable amount of detail about United Kingdom imports, exports of commodities and, for many of them the most important countries. The information in these statistics is a summary of much more detailed information. This is derived from declarations made by traders to HM Customs and Excise under the descriptions in the Tariff and Overseas Trade Classification (which has over 11,000 commodity headings); there are 199 specified countries.

The fully detailed information is not published on a monthly basis but, when circumstances allow. HM Customs and Excise can supply detailed information about trade under individual descriptions of the Tariff and Overseas Trade Classsification and with individual countries or through United Kingdom ports, either for particular months or for longer periods. A charge is made which covers the cost of the service.

Applications should be made to the Statistical Office, Bill of Entry Section, HM Customs and Excise, 27 Victoria Avenue; Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 6AL (Tel. Southend (0702) 49421, ext. 316 or 323 for Imports, or ext. 314 or 315 for Exports; Telex 99112 CUSEX Southend).

New companies registered in Northern Ireland during July

During July, 55 private companies with a total nominal capital of £1,432,410 were incorporated.

During the period January-July 342 companies with a total nominal capital of £9,631,260 were incorporated as compared with 301 companies with a total nominal capital of £9,269,746 in the same period in 1975.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 6 August 1976.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Movietone News 2461	BR/E 38627/8/8/81	8	6 August	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			FOREIGN		
Physical Assault	F 38713	87	5 August	Titan Film Distributors Ltd.	Williams Productions, California
Man Hungry	F 38714	83	5 August	Butcher's Film Distributors Ltd.	S. Markidis, Athens
Panic City	F 38715	89	5 August	Lancair Film Distributors Ltd.	Mid-America Productions, USA
Make Love, Not War	F 38716	71	5 August	Lanciar Film Distributors Ltd.	Mayven Productions, USA
Virgin Of The Beaches	F 38717	80	5 August	Lanciar Film Distributors Ltd.	Paris Inter Productions, Paris
Sextet	F 38718	56	6 August	Border Film Productions (London) Ltd.	Watchgrove Ltd., London

Amendments to the Register

The registration number of the film 'The Virgin Wife', registered on 8 July 1976, has been amended to EC 38681/11/7/81 and the maker's name to read Flaminia Produzione Cinematografica SrL, Rome.

The registration number of the film 'Alfredo Alfredo', registered on 24 June 1976, has been amended to EC 38672/27/6/81 and the maker's name to read R. P. A. Rizzoli Film, Rome and Francoriz Production SA, Paris.

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.

Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (A)	16 July 1976
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	23 July 1976
trends in invisible transactions	16 Apr. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcies *see* Insolvencies	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	7 May 1976
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	9 July 1976
By regions	This week
Catering trades turnover (M)	16 July 1976
Census of production (A)	2 Apr. 1976
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	2 July 1976
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	This week
Liquidations *see* Insolvencies	
liquidity (Q)	11 June 1976
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	This week
N. Ireland (M)	This week
rate of return on capital	24 Oct. 1975
Construction work overseas (A)	17 Oct. 1975
EEC economic indicators	6 Aug. 1976
Energy trends (M)	6 Aug. 1976
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	23 July 1976
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	6 Aug. 1976
cinema admissions and takings (M)	23 July 1976
overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
registrations of films (A)	30 Jan. 1976
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	2 July 1976
household consumption (Q)	2 July 1976
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	30 July 1976
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	This week
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	25 June 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Hire-purchase business (M)	This week
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	23 July 1976
N. Ireland index	21 Nov. 1975
Scotland	6 Aug. 1976
Wales	30 July 1976
Insolvencies (Q)	6 Aug. 1976
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	11 June 1976
investment and earnings overseas (A)	25 June 1976
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	21 May 1976
production (M)	30 July 1976
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	21 May 1976
Metal working machine tools (M)	23 July 1976
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	30 July 1976
estimated figures (M)	This week
motor trade turnover (Q)	21 May 1976
Office development permits (Q)	This week
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	16 July 1976
analysis of trends (Q)	18 June 1976
ten-year back run (A)	12 Mar. 1976
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
Regional development grants (Q)	6 Aug. 1976
amendment	This week
Regional selective assistance monthly summary (M)	6 Aug. 1976
Regional selective assistance: offers £10,000 or more (Q)	14 May 1976
Retail prices index (M)	23 July 1976
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	This week
provisional figures (M)	23 July 1976
sales, N. Ireland (M)	30 July 1976
stocks (M)	16 July 1976
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	25 June 1976
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	9 July 1976
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	2 July 1976
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' quarterly figures (Q)	9 July 1976
manufacturers' stocks: monthly estimates (M)	30 July 1976
retail (M)	16 July 1976
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	30 July 1976
carpet sales (M)	23 July 1976
cotton industry production (M)	30 July 1976
hosiery production (M)	25 June 1976
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	30 July 1976
wholesale houses' sales (M)	30 July 1976
wool exports (Q)	28 May 1976
wool output (M)	30 July 1976
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	19 Mar. 1976
overseas travel and tourism (Q)	6 Aug. 1976
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	9 Apr. 1976
index numbers (M)	This week

Departmental organisations, etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representations overseas	16 Apr. 1976
Customs notices of interest to exporters	6 Aug. 1976
ECGD local offices	6 Aug. 1976
Guide to Departments	23 July 1976
Official Receivers' offices	6 Aug. 1976
Programme of trade promotions	6 Aug. 1976
Release dates of economic statistics	23 July 1976

Trade and Industry reader services

contact our advertisers

For more information on the products, properties or services advertised in this issue, encircle the relevant numbers, fill in your name and address, and post this half of the page to the address below. You will quickly receive full information, without obligation.

name

company

position

address

telephone

Gulf Air	TI.160
King and Co.	TI.161
Leipzig Fair	TI.162
National Bank of New Zealand	TI.163
Netherlands Chamber of Commerce	TI.164

Return this half to Readership Service Department, Trade and Industry, T. G. Scott and Son Ltd, 1 Clement's Inn, London WC2A 2ED

ensure a regular copy

Over 50,000 people now read Trade and Industry each week. Over 50,000 people in trade and industry, exporting and technology. People wanting facts and figures, prices and statistics. Ensure a regular copy on your desk every Friday.

Annual subscription includes postage to any part of the world.

☐ I enclose £18.72 for one year's subscription to Trade and Industry

or

☐ Charge one year's subscription to my HMSO account number.....

Please tick appropriate square

Copies should be sent to

name

address

Return this half to HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH

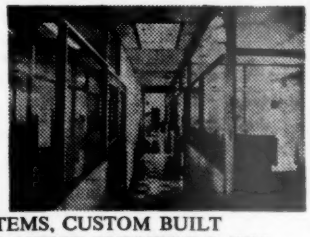
Trade • Industrial • Services

OFFICE MODERNISATION

INTERPLAN PARTITIONS LTD

ALUMINIUM PARTITION SPECIALISTS AND ALL ASPECTS OF OFFICE MODERNISATION.

AT LOW COST



SPEED AND EFFICIENCY, WITH FRIENDLY, PERSONAL SERVICE FOR ALL PARTITIONS, SUSPENDED CEILINGS, DECOR, ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS, BLINDS, SHELVING & STORAGE SYSTEMS, CUSTOM BUILT TUBULAR STEEL OR ALLOY OFFICE FURNITURE, ETC.

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

181a LONG LANE, LONDON, SE1 4PN. Telephone 01-403 0876

(289)

FINANCE

ANNOUNCEMENT

Funds for Commercial and Investment Mortgage and remortgage over 15 years at 13%.

Building Finance up to 100% available for Development.

Mortgages available at 2% over Bank Rate for House Purchase over 25 years and remortgage up to £25,000.

HILLGATE FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
136 Fulham Road, London SW10
Telephone 01-370 6824 (5 lines) (41)

TRANSLATIONS

TRANSLATIONS
USE THE EXPERTS

Arabic Italian Spanish French German Japanese Russian Swedish

* Commercial, technical, financial, advertising and publicity translations.
* Specialist technical translators.
* Foreign language typesetting and printing.
* Service assured – deadlines met.

Language Experts to the Export Industry

eurolingua

Professional Language Services Limited,
62 Oxford Street, London W1N 9LD Tel: 01-323 0631/1118

(279)

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SPECIALISTS

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SYSTEMS

for hire on a day-to-day basis and for permanent installation with full supporting engineering services

STOC ELECTRONICS LIMITED

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SYSTEMS FOR HIRE OR SALE with full supporting services

STOC UK

The Conference Centre
43 Charles Street,
Mayfair, London W1X 7PB
Telephone: 01-499 1101
Telegrams: Siesselt London W.1

2a Fellbrigg Road
East Dulwich
London SE22 9HH
Telephone: 01-693 0280

(230)

OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS

Optical tape measure

Gives precision measurements of any distance from 6 to 100 feet—in seconds. Simply sight object through view-finder and turn focusing dial until two images "merge" into one. Then read distance in metres (or feet if imperial model) on the tape indicator.

£17.75 including VAT & P&P

State Metric or Imp.

CHILECREST Ltd.
155/157 Pitshanger Lane, Ealing, London W.5.
Tel: 01-998 6558

(X106)

ALUMINIUM WINDOWS

E. D. Hinchliffe
& Sons Ltd.

Bonaire Ventilators
Roof Lights
Aluminium Windows
Doors and Curtain Walling

U.K. AND EXPORT

Albion Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands
Tel: 021-553 5561/7 (245)

CONTAINERS FOR SALE

I.S.O. CONTAINERS FOR SALE
Full details and prices on request.

We also buy surplus stocks of containers, stillages and all types handling equipment.

J. T. LEAVESLEY (ALREWAS) LTD.
BURTON-ON-TRENT
STAFFORDSHIRE
(0283) 790333 (87)

ARTICLES WANTED

WANTED!!

BALL AND ROLLER BEARINGS

Steelballs, races, plummer blocks, and similar surplus goods

Full details of quantities and sizes dealt with by return:

R. Pordes, 529B Finchley Road, London NW3 7BH
01-435 9878/9 (12)

TECHNICAL TRANSLATIONS

INTERPRETTE TRANSLATORS

commercial, technical and scientific commercial work normally by return of post. Over 24 languages.
Interprette Translators 01-340 0770
01-206 0392

(X200)

INTERLINGUA TRANSLATIONS

ترجمة

翻訳

• TRANSLATORS • INTERPRETERS • TYPESETTERS • PRINTERS •

Head Office: Ashurst Wood, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 3RX
Tel: 0342 82 2101 (6 lines) Tx: 95101 (8 lines) Fax: 0342 82 2202
London Office: 27 New Bond St., London W1Y 9HD. Tel: 01-493 2407/9 Tx: 21691 Fax: 01-493 2408

(X287)

Trade • Industrial • Services

GROUPAGE AND FREIGHTING

LIVESTOCK TRANSPORTATION

Dogs are People Too

that's why they get V.I.P. treatment from Animal Air Express
the specialist livestock shipping agent at Heathrow Airport
Exports and imports by air and sea. Travelling kennel manufacturers.
Quarantine carrying agents.
Full documentation, consular, transport, veterinary, insurance and kennelling facilities
Tel. Ashford (Middx.) 52659 or 44677
24 hour, 7 day service (283)

GREECE

GREECE
OVERLAND
SEA OR AIR
Groupage and Full Loads Receiving
London and Colchester
GREEN LINE
Telephone: 0206 63456
Telex: 987793

(X222)

SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI ARABIA
Regular overland services to all Arabian destinations
CONTACT:
Mr Brian Scott
Traffic Manager
WELLAM INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT LTD
FLEETWOOD, LANCS
Tel: 039 17-2586
Telex: 677221 (250)

GROUPAGE

DURABLE
International Transits

- **DUBLIN**
- **BELFAST**
- **WATERFORD**
- **BRUSSELS**
- **ROTTERDAM**
- **CHANNEL ISLES**
- **ISLE OF MAN**

Groupage/Full-Load
Keen rates
All types equipment
01-987 2070
170-174 West Ferry Road
London E14
Telex 261180
(251)

FRANCE

Full Load and Groupage Services
12 metre trailers
Driver accompanied
also
EXPRESS GROUPAGE SERVICE to PARIS
Penfold International Transport
Tel: 01-399 6611 Telex: 266003 (278)

HOLLAND

Groupage Services to
HOLLAND AND BENELUX
Freight rates to Rotterdam £16.00 per 1000K
Regular service from London Depot
WHITE OAK TRANSPORT SERVICES LTD.
Atlantic Wharf, Hertford Road, Barking, Essex
Tel: 01-594 5499. Telex: 897815

(X102)

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND GROUPAGE

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AGENCY
All Import and Export Customs work undertaken for Dover and Folkestone
● 24 HOUR ● 7 DAYS A WEEK SERVICE ●
Warehousing, Transport and Redistribution facilities available
• • •
EUROPEAN GROUPAGE SERVICES
• • •
CONTACT
C.P.B. SHIPPING AND FORWARDING AGENCY LTD.
49 Castle Street, Dover, Kent
Telephone (0304) 201125–201184 Telex: 965562 (254)

EXPORT SERVICES

DO YOU WANT A COMPETITIVE & SATISFACTORY EXPORT GROUPAGE/AIR FREIGHT SERVICE?
We operate such a service to
FRANCE ● BELGIUM ● HOLLAND ● WEST GERMANY ● USA
For further information please phone
AUMALE EXPORT FREIGHT COMPANY
32 Bonar Road, Peckham, London SE15
TELEPHONE: 01-639 1155/6 (240)

STORAGE

STORAGE SPACE
NOTTINGHAM — DERBY
Close to M1
Over 800,000 square feet of warehousing in units of up to 50,000 square feet. Buffer stocks or bulk — break. Handling facilities available.
MIDLANDS STORAGE LIMITED
WEST HALLAM, DERBY
Tel: 0602 322451 Telex: 37611 (177)

CONTAINERS

FOR SALE
20-30 ft. Tilt Containers and 20-40 ft. open tops.
Bulkers, Half Heights, Side-End Loaders available, Insulated, Tanks, also Ordinary Dry Boxes etc. . . .
AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE PURCHASE
PRICE ON APPLICATION
Tel: Miss Maufe 01-987 8442 or 834 7500 Telex: 897337 COMCARCO (249)

ITALY

ITALY
12 METRE
DRIVER-ACCOMPANIED
BOXES & TILTS
Contact:
HOCFUN LTD.
SOUTHAMPTON
(0703) 36538
Telex 477540

(233)

SPAIN

UK — SPAIN — UK
2/3 Weekly Driver Accompanied TIR Groupage Services
BARCELONA — MADRID
IRUN
Transit Time 3/4 Days
C. E. G.
Manchester Depot:
Tel: 061-872 6383 Telex: 667744
London Depot:
Tel: 01-534 7963 Telex: 897963 (107)

GROUPAGE AND SHIPPING

WENTMORE SHIPPING & HAULAGE LIMITED
INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING and FORWARDING • GROUPAGES & FULL LOADS TO ALL COUNTRIES
UNIT 29, RIVERSIDE WORKS, HERTFORD ROAD, BARKING, ESSEX. 01-594 9416/9 Telex 897893

(281)

Trade • Industrial • Services

SHIPPING

EXPORT INVOICE FORMS

Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Sea Labels

Send for comprehensive list, colour leaflet of labels and price list.

To: **The James Laver Printing Co. Ltd.,** Argyle Street, Liverpool L1 5BL. Telephone: 051-709 1465

(X178)

EXPORT SERVICES

ENGLISH EXPORTERS (LONDON) LTD.

70 Baker Street, London, W.1.

Telephone: 01-486 4871 (7 lines) Telex: 25754 Cables: ENGLEXPORT London

We offer our services to manufacturers concerning their exports to anywhere in the World without charge to them and pay here against shipping documents.

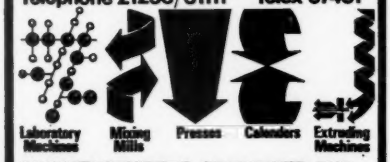
WE SPECIALISE IN SWITCH, TRIANGULAR AND COMPENSATION TRANSACTIONS.

(X284)

IDDON

BROTHERS LIMITED

Quin Street, Leyland PR5 1TB, England
Telephone 21258/31111 Telex 67451



MANUFACTURERS OF RUBBER AND PLASTICS MACHINERY

(266)

ACADEMY PLASTICS for the best PVC binders, wallets and containers.

Academy Plastics make all sorts of pvc wallets and containers – to your exact specification. Loose leaf binders. Catalogue and price list covers. Film Transparency holders. Conference wallets and salesmen's albums. Swatch covers and transparent pockets. Document cases and travel document folders. Pocket and lapel name holders.

ACADEMY PLASTICS LIMITED.
25-29 Roundwood Road, London NW10 9TA
01-459 5277

(X267)

Watch your Language . . .

When you're dealing with overseas customers, your language must be as good as your product. At the N.E.C., it's our job to help sell the best that Britain has to offer.

Technical Translation Institute

London: 01-240 5361 Telex 23209/261602
Imperial House, 15-19 Kingsway, London WC2B 6UU
Midlands: 021-236 9435 Telex 337257
St. Philips Chambers, 13 Colmore Row, B'ham B3 2BE
and at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

TTI A member of the GTS Group
Offices in Brussels & Hanover

(57)

Variety metal workers in all types of metals to ½" thick. 12' brake presses and guillotines. Rolling capacity to ½" plate.

Cabinets and guards, trunking and tank work.

Fully equipped engineering division turning to 4' dia., milling capstan and presswork.

Hydraulic spinning to 4' dia. in 3/16" stainless, hand spinning to 4' dia. × 14g.

A. Richards *(Metal Workers)* **Ltd.**
West Ferry Road, London, E14 8JP
Telephone: 01-987 5911 (5 lines)

(262)

Sheet Metal

PRESSWORK

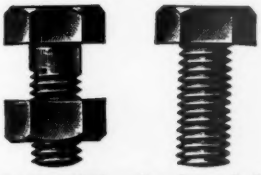
A Battery of Power Presses from 5 tons to 400 tons at your service

BIRD, STEVENS & CO. LTD.
Quarry Bank, Staffs

Telephone HEAD OFFICE CRADLEY HEATH 67381, (STD 0384) or LONDON OFFICE (01-407 7519) or MANCHESTER OFFICE (061-428 7254)

(286)

Bolts and nuts, screws, rivets, studs studding washers.
All sizes and types in any material.



Abis & Co (Birmingham) Ltd.
Dennis Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham, B 12 8BB.
Trunk Dial 021-449 3781 (6 lines)

GKN Bolts & Nuts
GKN Screws & Fasteners } Accredited Stockist

(X285)

MAUN

HAND TOOLS

The best to get hold of

Manufacturers of stationers punches eyeletting tools, pliers etc.
Contractors to H.M. Stationery Office, The Ministry of Defence and the G.P.O.

MAUN INDUSTRIES LTD.
Mansfield, Notts. Telephone: 24525

(280)

READ BRITISH INDUSTRY

FOR ONLY **£2** *PER CENTIMETRE*

CONTACT
T. G. SCOTT & SON LTD.
1 CLEMENT'S INN, WC2A 2ED
01-242 6264

Screwing machines
For Bolts and Pipes,
Portable, for hand and power.
As used by railways, docks, public works and engineers.

James N. Durie & Co. Ltd.
106 Dockfields Road, Shipley, Yorks.
0274 53388.

(X261)

T&I goes ABC

Trade and Industry has an audited circulation of over 14,000. And an estimated readership of over 50,000.*

Now, our latest Readership Survey has shown just how important that circulation is among the people who matter.

Trade and Industry is a unique publication; with its direct access to Government information, it presents up-to-date facts and figures which are often unobtainable from any other source. For the people who make the decisions, Trade and Industry is invaluable; it helps to keep them – and their companies – one step ahead. More and more people are reading Trade and Industry. Over 50,000 each week.

Put it on your media schedule and reach the real decision makers.

Ring Colin Beadle on 01-242 6264 for further details. Alternatively just send us the coupon below.

To: Trade and Industry, Advertising Department,
T. G. Scott & Son Ltd., 1 Clement's Inn,
London WC2A 2ED 01-242 6264 or 01-405 4743
Please send me latest details and a rate card.

Name_____

Position_____

Company_____

Address_____

_____

_____

*Audit Bureau of Circulation certified average circulation July-December 1975 : 14,182 copies. Readership survey carried out in April 1976 gives estimated readership of over 50,000.

Trade and Industry: the decision makers' magazine.

Registered as a Newspaper Published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1BN, for the Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. Printed by The Garden City Press Limited, Pixmore Avenue, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 1JS.

ISBN 0 11 724587 9